

Fruits Basket™

SHOJO
MANGA
JANUARY 1999

The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



16

Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

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shojo manga
in America!



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SHOJO JUMP
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Grab your best friend and get ready for the New Year's Eve ball—everything you've been waiting to know is right inside the next volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*, the world's #1 shojo manga!



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Fruits BasketTM

Volume 16



Natsuki Takaya

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



Fruits Basket™

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Fruits Basket Characters

Mabudachi Trio



Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

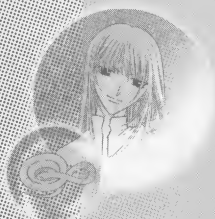
Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends

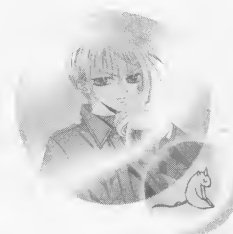


Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

Kagura Sohma, the Boar

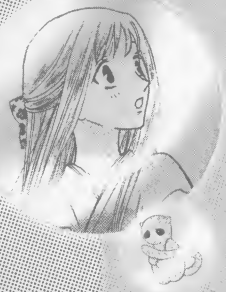
Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



Fruits Basket Characters

Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She was once in a relationship with Hatsuharu (Haru)...and Tohru leaves her rather cold. Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Crossdressing calms his nerves.



Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.

Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. His mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse. His little sister, Momo, has been kept from him most of her life.

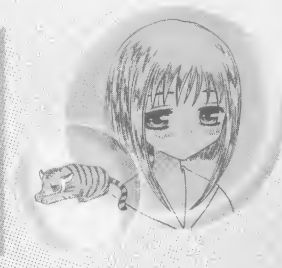


Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out. He was once in a relationship with Rin.

Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

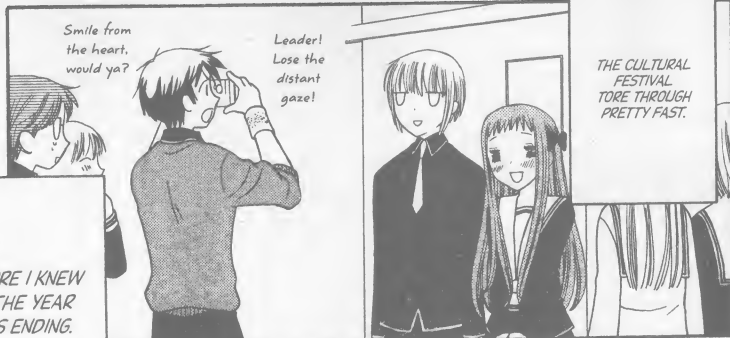
Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.





Chapter 90

Fruits Basket™



Smile from
the heart,
would ya?

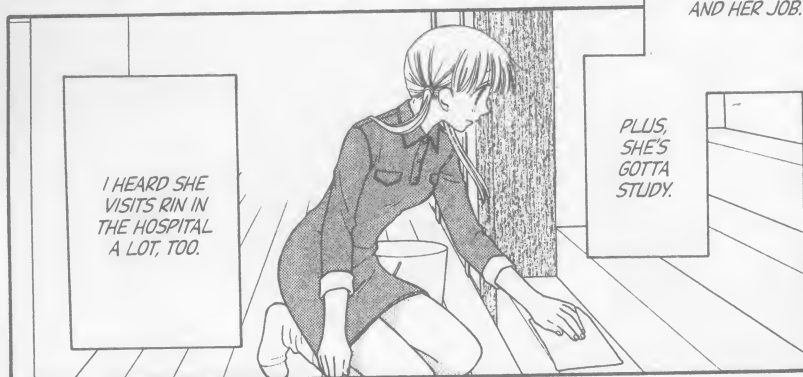
Leader!
Lose the
distant
gaze!

THE CULTURAL
FESTIVAL
TORE THROUGH
PRETTY FAST.

BEFORE I KNEW
IT, THE YEAR
WAS ENDING.

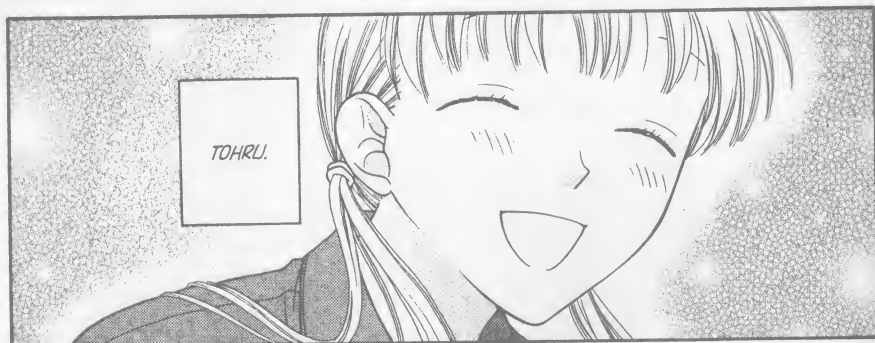


SHE SEEMS EVEN
BUSIER THAN
USUAL WITH
THE HOUSEWORK
AND HER JOB.



I HEARD SHE
VISITS RIN IN
THE HOSPITAL
A LOT, TOO.

PLUS,
SHE'S
GOTTA
STUDY.



TOHRLI.



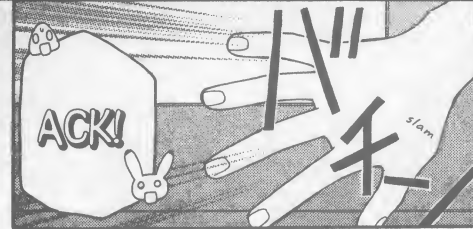
Long live the stupid couple.



WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

PRINCE KYO'S A HIGHLIGHT, TOO!

HEH.



Kyo turned it off, Kyo turned it off!

Meenie!

THAT STUPID PLAY IS STAYING OFF THE TV!

Shut up!



WELCOME HOME, KYO-KUN!

KYO-KUN, YOU'RE PREDICTABLY DREARY.

Yeah!

YEAH. HOW FAR DID YOU RUN? IT'S EARLY, Y'KNOW.



OH, WOW!



YOU TAPED THE WHOLE THING!

DOES MY VOICE REALLY SOUND LIKE THAT?

YOU WERE ADORABLE, TOHRU-KUN.

TOHRU WAS LIKE A PRINCESS!

はさ

stop

Oh! Er... thank you.



I WANNA BURN IT INTO MY MEMORY...

...AND THEN FORGET IT ALL.



IT'S LIKE
THOSE
PICTURES ARE
REALLY ALIVE!

MUCH MORE
REAL THAN
A PHOTO!

IT'S SO
REAL.

PEOPLE
CAN MOVE
AND TALK
ON A DVD.

TO BE LEFT
BEHIND...



KYO'S PRETTY
DUMB WITH
MODERN
TECHNOLOGY.

HE
SURE
IS!



YOU'RE
KIDDING!

I'M
KIDDING.

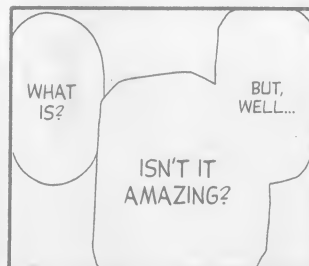
BUT IT'S
BEING
BROADCAST
NATIONWIDE.



I'M SURE THEY
HAD TO EXPLAIN
THAT TO YOU.

Admit
it.

Wanted to
seem knowl-
edgeable



WHAT
IS?

BUT,
WELL...

ISN'T IT
AMAZING?



IT'S C-
CALLED
A DVD,
KYO-KUN!

IT'S AN AMAZING
THING THAT CAN
HAVE LOTS OF
THINGS ON IT AND
CAN COPY LOTS
OF THINGS!

THANK YOU
FOR THE
EXPERT
OPINION.

Fruits Basket 16

Nice to meet you and hello! This is Takaya speaking. Fruits Basket is breaking into Volume 16 with Anego--"elder sister." That's Arisa!

Finally, I guess, the number of characters adorning the cover has broken through to 16. Which makes sense, since it's Volume 16.

There may be some people out there who are worried. "What will she do about characters after this?" they'll think. There may not be any. But don't worry--I've thought it through!

I may not worry about things that don't warrant worry, but I still think when I have to. (laughs)

...To be honest, I didn't have the confidence to assume that I would be allowed to draw this far. It looks like I'll be able to tell this story to its end, and for that I'm truly grateful. With that in mind, please enjoy Volume 16.

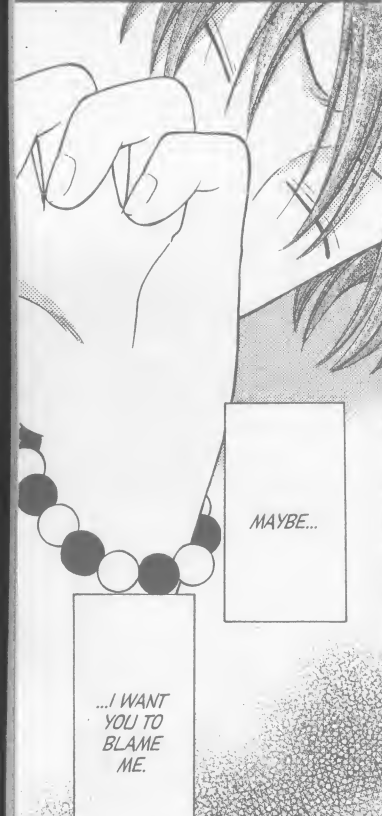


IT
MAKES ME
WONDER.





ARE YOU
BLAMING
ME FOR
THAT?



MAYBE...

...I WANT
YOU TO
BLAME
ME.

"Y'KNOW
WHAT?"



MAYBE IT'S
BECAUSE I'M
WITH HER
TOO MUCH.

OR BECAUSE
I'M CONCEITED
AS HELL.

I
PRETEND
I DON'T
KNOW.

I PRETEND
I HAVEN'T
NOTICED.

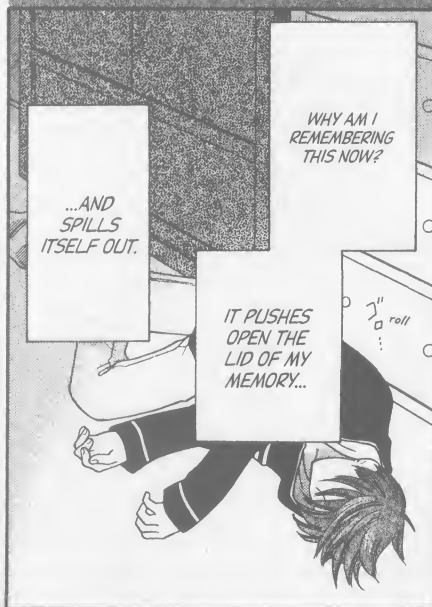
I PRETEND
I CAN'T
REMEMBER...

WHAT
WOULD
SHE...



IF SHE
KNEW THE
TRUTH.

IF SHE
KNEW I
MET HER
MOM.



...AND
SPILLS
ITSELF OUT.

WHY AM I
REMEMBERING
THIS NOW?

IT PUSHES
OPEN THE
LID OF MY
MEMORY...



"THAT'S
HOW YOU
WANT HIM
TO BE."






...SHE WAS
ALREADY
OUT OF
CONTROL.

BEFORE
STARTING
MIDDLE
SCHOOL...

SHE FELL
IN WITH
"BAD KIDS."



AND SPENT
HER DAYS
DOING "BAD
THINGS."



SHE STILL
BEAT PEOPLE
SENSELESS.



SOME PEOPLE
CRIED OR
BEGGED.



OR THEY
BEAT HER.

DIE, YOU
LITTLE
BITCH!

DIE!


p-
PLEASE!

LOOK AT YOU.
NOT SO TOUGH
NOW, ARE YA?



WE TALKED
ABOUT A
LOT OF
THINGS.

I CAN KINDA
REMEMBER.



"I WANTED
THEM TO
BLAME ME."



SHE STARTED
TALKING ABOUT
HERSELF A LONG
TIME AGO.

WHEN
WAS
THAT?

YEAH.



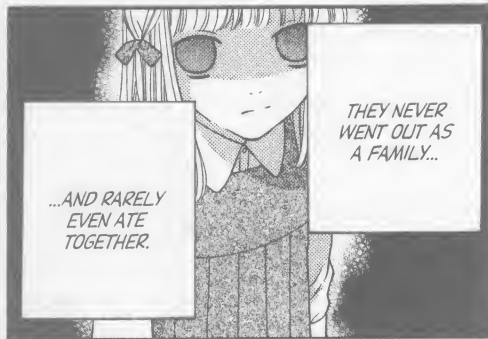
JUST A
LITTLE, AT
FIRST.



HER DAD
NEVER
THOUGHT OF
THE FAMILY.



HER MOM
ONLY CARED
ABOUT HER
HUSBAND
AND HER
IMAGE.



THEY NEVER
WENT OUT AS
A FAMILY...

...AND RARELY
EVEN ATE
TOGETHER.



GET
OUT!

YOU'RE A
DISGRACE!

SHE
COULDN'T
REMEMBER
BEING HELD.



WELL, SHE
HAD THEM.

BUT SHE CAME
FROM A COLD
HOUSEHOLD.
SHE SAID WITH A
BITTER SMILE.



WHAT'RE
YOU LOOKIN'
AT, HAG?

DON'T MAKE
ME BREAK
YOUR NOSE!

LOOK AT
THAT.

DEAR
GOD.

CALL THE
POL--

AAH!

PARENTS.

THAT'S
FRIGHT-
ENING.

HOW ON
EARTH WAS
SHE RAISED?

...THAT IT WAS
LIKE HER BODY
WAS MADE OF
BROKEN GLASS.

SHE
COULDN'T
TRUST
ANYONE.

NOT HER
PARENTS,
NOT HER
FRIENDS...

SHE ONLY
HURT
THEM.

SHE
TOLD
ME...



THEN YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE HAD
ME.

YEAH?



JUST WHO
THE HELL
ASKED YOU TO
HAVE ME?!

WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING?



KYOKO.

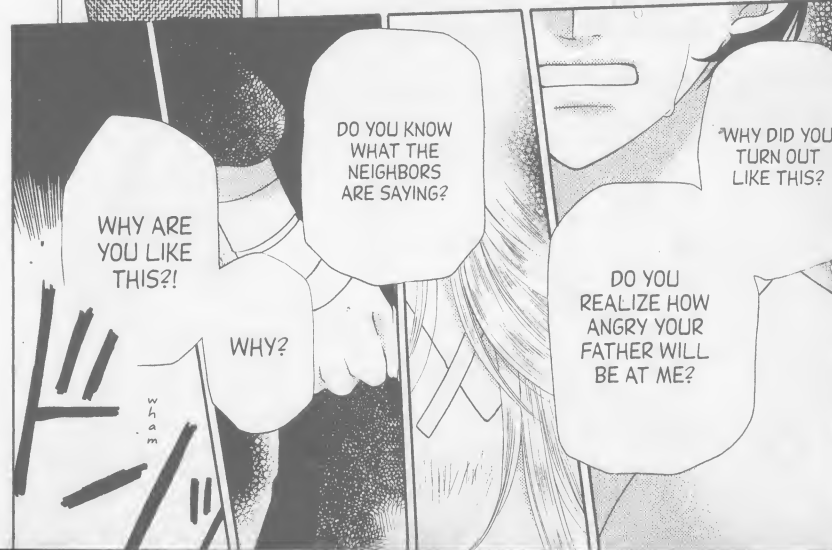
KYOKO-
CHAN.

IN THIS WORLD,
THERE ARE PEOPLE
WHO ARE NEEDED
AND PEOPLE
WHO AREN'T.

YOU'RE THE
LATTER, YOU
UNGRATEFUL
CHILD.

NEVER
SET FOOT
IN THIS
HOUSE
AGAIN!

DEAR,
PLEASE!



WHY ARE
YOU LIKE
THIS?!

WHY?

DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THE
NEIGHBORS
ARE SAYING?

WHY DID YOU
TURN OUT
LIKE THIS?

DO YOU
REALIZE HOW
ANGRY YOUR
FATHER WILL
BE AT ME?



...IT
REALLY WAS
COINCIDENCE...

...THAT
SHE
MET
HIM
THERE
AT ALL.

crash

THAT'S
WHY...



YOU'RE
COMING
WITH ME!

I'M
CALLING
YOUR
PARENTS.

IN MIDDLE
SCHOOL...



...SHE
BARELY
EVER
SHOWED.



YOU'RE
HINDERING THE
STUDENTS
WHO ARE
SERIOUS
ABOUT
LEARNING!

SENSEI...

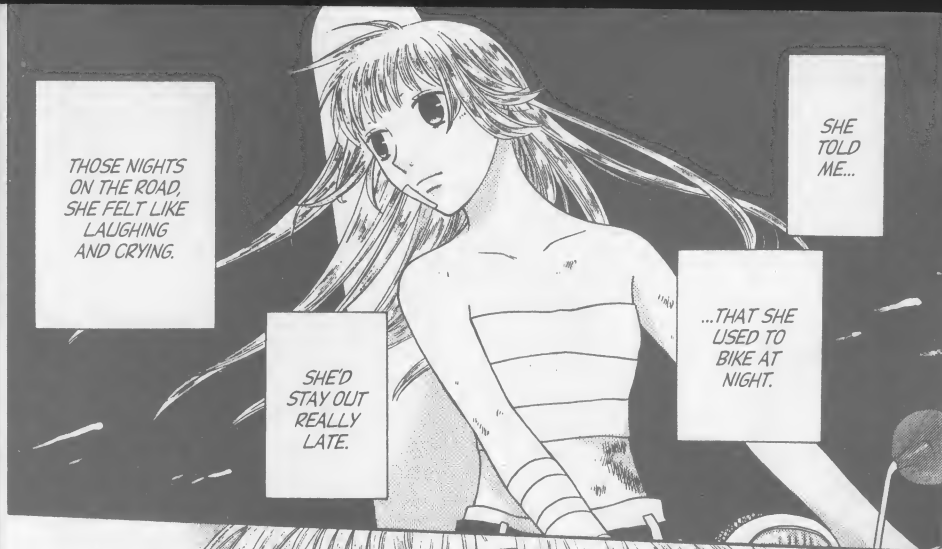
YOU
SHOULD BE
ASHAMED OF
YOURSELF!

YOU'RE A
MENACE,
YOU
REALIZE.

AH!



boom



THOSE NIGHTS
ON THE ROAD,
SHE FELT LIKE
LAUGHING
AND CRYING.

SHE
TOLD
ME...

SHE'D
STAY OUT
REALLY
LATE.

...THAT SHE
USED TO
BIKE AT
NIGHT.



BUT AT
THE SAME
TIME...

SHE FELT LIKE
SHE COULD GO
ANYWHERE.

...SHE
COULDN'T
MOVE.



IT'S RARE TO
HAVE YOU
IN SCHOOL
AT ALL.

AND NOW
THIS?
THIS...
STREET
FASHION?!

KATSU-
NUMA!

WHAT ON
EARTH
ARE YOU
WEARING?!



QUIT TRYING
TO ACT LIKE
YOU'RE ALL
FRIGGIN'
PERFECT!

BUT
YOU'RE
ALL
JUST
AS BAD!

YOU ALL
TREAT
PEOPLE
LIKE
GARBAGE.

YOU
JUST...

EVERY-
THING
PISSes
ME
off!

IT'S
EVERYTHING,
YOU PRICK!
GOD, YOU'RE
ANNOYING!

IT'S
EVERYTHING,
OKAY?!

I'D BE
BETTER
OFF WITH
YOU DEAD!

GET
OUT
OF MY
LIFE.

I WISH
EVERYONE
WOULD
JUST...
GO.

LEAVE
ME
ALONE.

AND
YOU!

EVERY-
ONE AND
EVERY-
THING!

I HATE
YOUR
GOD-
DAMN
GUTS!

THEM!

AND
THEM!

AND
THEM!

YOU
FALL
APART!

YOU DIS-
APPEAR!

GO TO
HELL!

DIE!

DIE!



YOU
WANT
THEM...




YOU
WANT
THEM TO
ACCEPT
YOU.

TO
UNDERSTAND,
SOMEHOW.

...TO
LISTEN
TO YOU.

I
THINK...



...YOU
WANT
THEM
TO
LOVE
YOU.

REALLY?

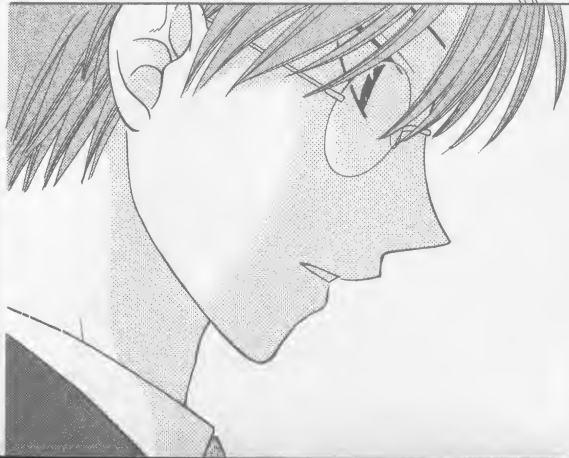


I THINK
YOU WANT
THEM TO
CARE.

ALL
THOSE
PEOPLE.



YOU WANT
THEM TO
LOOK AT
YOU, DON'T
YOU?



YOU WANT
THEM TO
NEED YOU.



WHY?

YOU'RE
ASKING
ME?

WHY...

...DID
I...?!

I'M
MISER-
ABLE.

WHAT
WAS HER
MISTAKE?

WHERE
DID
SHE GO
WRONG?



WHY
DID YOU
TURN
OUT LIKE
THIS?

THAT'S
WHAT...
THAT'S
WHAT I
WANNA
KNOW.



YOU KNOW
SOMETHING?

I'M
LIKE
THAT,
TOO.

WH-
WHY?

...TURN
OUT...

...LIKE
THIS?

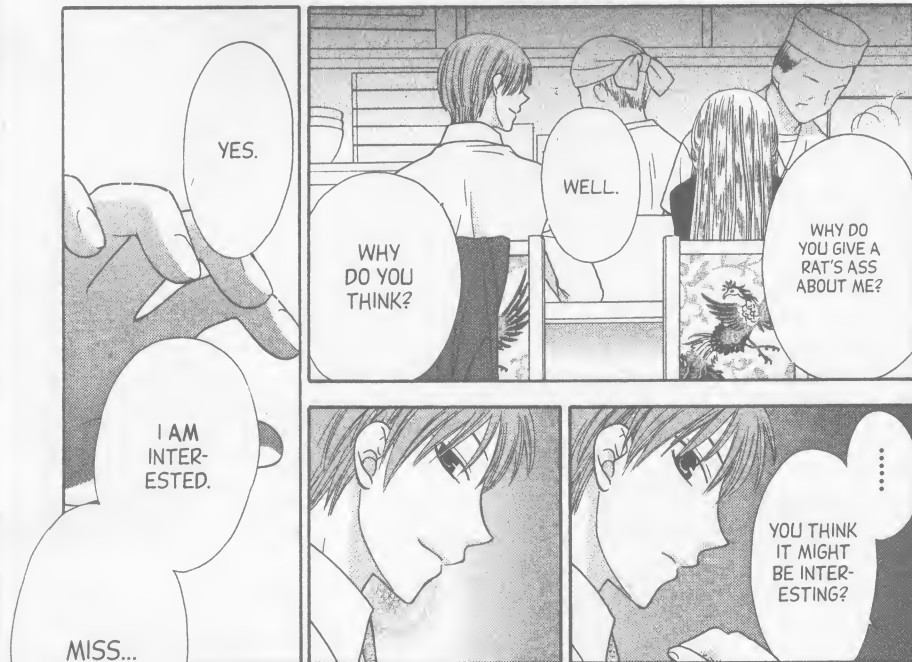
WHY
DID I...



TO LOVE
PEOPLE...

...AND
BE
LOVED.







Chapter 91



THAT
DAY...

...SHE ONLY
KNEW ONE
THING FOR
SURE.



SO
SORRY.

Hey!

WATCH
THE
HANDS,
GRABBY!

THE
RAMEN
TASTED
GOOD.

What's
wrong
with
you?!



...AND
SAID
THAT
WITH A
SMILE.

BUT THE
RAMEN THEY
ATE WAS
GOOD. SHE
NARROWED
HER EYES...

IT STUNG
AT HER
WOUNDS.



EVERYONE
TAKES CARE OF
ME BECAUSE I'M
MY FATHER'S
SON.

I SUPPOSE
THEY WANT
ME TO
FOLLOW
IN HIS
FOOTSTEPS.



SURE.

BUT IT'S
NOT ALL
BAD.

THAT
KINDA...
SUCKS.



HE'S RETIRED
NOW, BUT MY
FATHER WAS
A TEACHER.

HE TAUGHT
HERE FOR
YEARS.

HE WAS GOOD
ENOUGH TO
GARNER A
BIT OF A
CELEBRITY
STATUS.



IT SAVES
ME FROM
CRITICISM
WHEN I TRY
TO PUSH
BOUNDARIES.

MY FATHER'S
INFLUENCE IS
WORTH USING.

IF YOU
KNOW
HOW,
THAT IS.



DID YOU GET
IN TROUBLE
WITH THAT
OTHER
TEACHER?

...SHE
STARTED
TO
CHANGE.

AFTER
HER FIRST
MEETING
WITH
KATSUYA
HONDA...



NOT
REALLY.

I SAID THAT
YOU WEREN'T
FEELING WELL,
SO I THOUGHT I
SHOULD SEND
YOU HOME.

FOR TAKING
ME OUT OF
SCHOOL...



I HAVE MY
FATHER'S
INFLUENCE
ON MY SIDE.



INFLUENCE?



Argh!

MISS NO-EYEBROWS.

I JUST TOLD YOU-- I HAVE 'EM NOW!

So stop calling me that!

HE HAD STRONG HABITS AND WAS FAKE POLITE.

AND COLD, IN SOME WAYS.

BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HER...

HE'S GOTTA BE!

HE'S MESSING WITH ME.

YOU'RE PRETTIER WITH EYEBROWS...

...I HAVE TO ADMIT.

CRAP.



I HAVE AFTERNOON CLASSES TO ATTEND.

WILL YOU BE ABSENT AGAIN?

DAMN STRAIGHT.

RRRING BRING

THANK YOU.

That ~~wasn't~~ a compliment!

You're, like, the worst person I know.

...WELL.

OF COURSE I NOTICED.

DON'T CALL ME THAT! I DREW IN MY EYEBROWS, DINGBAT. OR DIDN'T YOU NOTICE?!

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SEE ME TEACH, MISS NO-EYEBROWS.

EVEN IF IT'S ONLY ONCE.

Why is it so fun
drawing girly girls...?

Kagura



With her father and
mother, Kagura's in
a family of three.

As of Volume 16, she's
a sophomore in junior
college...right?

Her parents love
her very much.

Kagura's house is more
independent than the
houses of the other
members of the Zodiac.

Essentially, she's an
older sister type who's
always ready to help.

She gets along with
everybody. Rin is the
only one she's awkward
with, but that's a
matter of Rin's feelings.

She gets along
especially well
with Ritschan.

← To be continued



GETTING
INTO ANY
FIGHTS,
MISS NO-
EYEBROWS?

No!

THEY
NEVER
TALKED
LONG.

BUT SHE
LOOKED
FORWARD
TO IT.



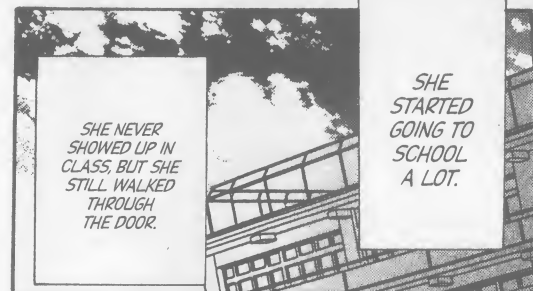
BACK OUT
AGAIN AND
THE BOSS
IS GONNA
BE PISS!

KATSU-
NUMA!

YOU MISSED
THE MEETING
YESTERDAY!



ARE YOU
TRYING
TO PICK A
FIGHT?!



SHE NEVER
SHOWED UP IN
CLASS, BUT SHE
STILL WALKED
THROUGH
THE DOOR.

SHE
STARTED
GOING TO
SCHOOL
A LOT.



Wha?

SO YOU'RE
GOOD AT
TRICKING
PEOPLE.

THANK
YOU.



THAT'S NOT
A COMPLI-
MENT!



KATSUYA
HONDA
ALWAYS
VISITED HER
AT LUNCH.

SO HOW'S
YOUR STUDENT
TEACHER STUFF
GOING? DO THE
OTHER KIDS
LIKE YOU?

I'M DOING
WELL, THANK
YOU. MY
MANNERS ARE
MY SELLING
POINT.



...FROM
BEING
ATTRACTED
TO HIM.



WHY DO YOU WEAR THEM IF YOU DON'T NEED THEM?!

THEY MAKE ME LOOK INTELLECTUAL AND SCHOLARLY.

AW, COME ON!

Ha ha!

YOU'RE REALLY WEIRD, SENSEI.



HEY.

MY TRAINING ENDS TOMORROW.

I'LL BE LEAVING THIS SCHOOL.



HEY.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?

SENSEI...

I WONDER IF HE'S ASLEEP.

DOES HE CARE THAT I'M DRAWING ON EYEBROWS AND ONLY SHOWING UP AT LUNCH?

WHY DOES HE COME SEE ME?

I WONDER...

YOU'RE KIDDING!

GET REAL, HONDA-SENSEI.

THESE GLASSES ARE JUST FOR SHOW!

...IF HE'S GOT A GIRL-FRIEND.

HIDING MY
TRUE NATURE
UNDER A
GUISE KEPT
ALL THOSE
SPECTATORS
QUIET.

BEFORE I
REALIZED IT, I'D
LEARNED TO
FORM "MYSELF"
TO SATISFY
HIM AND
EVERYONE ELSE
AROUND ME.

...MY
FATHER IS A
STRICT
MAN.

HE'S FUSSY
ABOUT
ETIQUETTE
AND A
NUMBER OF
OTHER
THINGS.

THERE WAS
A WALL
BETWEEN US.
I WOULDN'T
CALL IT
HATE.

AND
YET...

HE'S
LOST HIS
EDGE.

MY MOTHER
GREW SICK AND
DIED RECENTLY.
SINCE THEN,
HE FEELS
VERY SMALL.

I
THINK...

DO YOU
HATE
HIM?

YOUR
DAD, I
MEAN.

I PLAYED ALONG
FOR A WHILE
BECAUSE MY
FATHER AND
EVERYONE ELSE
EXPECTED IT.

STILL...

I'M NOT
TOTALLY
UNINTERESTED
IN BEING A
TEACHER.

OKAY.

UH...

I'VE
DECIDED
AGAINST
IT.

SO...

ARE YOU
GONNA BE A
TEACHER?

uh.

MY
PERSONALITY
ITSELF IS
CONTRARY.

My being a
teacher might
be dangerous.

YOU JUST
ADMITTED
IT!

I CAN'T
CORRECT THE
CONTRARIETY.

IT'S JUST
THAT THE
JOB DOESN'T
SUIT ME.

.....
?

I CAN'T
SEE HIM
ANYMORE.

とら
grab

BUT...

Ha
ha
ha!

LOOK.

I, UH,
THOUGHT I
COULD AT
LEAST SEE
YOUR LAST
LECTURE.

I
JUST...

...SENSEI.

THANKS.
Y'KNOW.

YOU DID
GOOD...

WHA?

IT'S A
BORING
STORY,
ISN'T IT?

IF HE
WASN'T...

IT'S NOT
BORING.

IT'S NOT!
REALLY!

...HE
COULDN'T
HAVE SAID
ALL THAT

I WANNA
KNOW...

...MORE
ABOUT
HIM.

I THINK HE'S
LONELY. I
KNOW HE'S
LONELY.

HE'S
LONELY,
TOO.

HIS
CURRENT
"SELF" IS
LONELY.



YOU'RE LIKE A DOG, MISS NO-EYEBROWS.

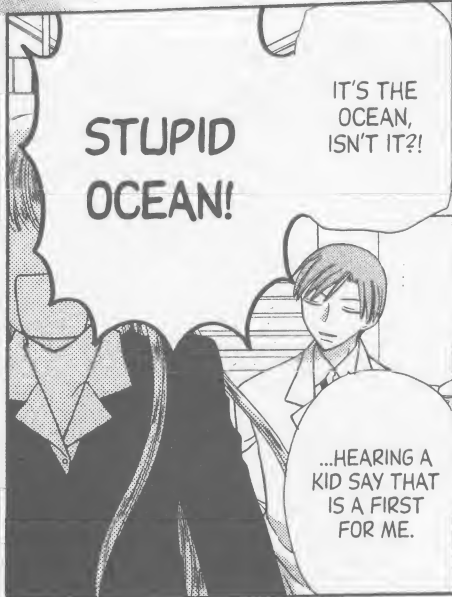
IT'S THE OCEAN!

OCEAN
OCEAN
OCEAN!



Y'KNOW SOMETHING?

YOU'RE A NICE GUY.



IT'S THE OCEAN, ISN'T IT?!

STUPID OCEAN!

...HEARING A KID SAY THAT IS A FIRST FOR ME.



THANK YOU.

SENSEI.



I DIDN'T WANNA DRIVE THAT HOME.

THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME THERE.

I CAN'T JOIN IN THIS LATE IN THE GAME.

I...



IT JUST SUCKS, Y'KNOW?

I KNOW I'M NOT BEING FAIR.

I GOT MYSELF IN THIS MESS.



I WAS SCARED.

OF THE CLASS-ROOM.



HUH?

I THOUGHT I COULD LEAST COME TO THE LAST--

COME ON.

LET ME TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE YOU WANT TO GO.

カ
ハ
ツ
rustle



BUT IF I'D
BEEN MORE
OPEN, LIKE
THE OTHER
GIRLS...

I
DUNNO.

MAYBE
IT'S
WEIRD
FOR MY
AGE.

IF I'D
LIVED
MORE LIKE
A GIRL IN
GENERAL...



I'LL GIVE IT
EVERYTHING
I'VE GOT.

I HATE HOW
IMMATURE
I AM.



I'M
ASHAMED
OF HOW
I'VE BEEN
LIVING.



THIS
GOODBYE
SEEMS
PRETTY
FINAL.

HM.

...MAYBE I
WOULDN'T
HAD THE
CONFIDENCE
TO TELL HIM
HOW I FEEL.

WITHOUT
BEING
ASHAMED.

THANK
YOU...

IT'S
GOODBYE,
DUH. WE
CAN'T SEE
EACH OTHER
ANYMORE.

GROW
UP.



YOU
DIDN'T
HAVE TO
CARE, BUT
YOU DID.

SENSEI...



I'M NOT
SURE
YOU'RE
RIGHT
ABOUT
THAT.

REALLY?

I THINK
YOU'RE
NICE.

I WAS
LIKE AN
ABANDONED
CAT.



I LOVE
YOU.


HEY.

I'LL
EVEN GO
TO HIGH
SCHOOL.

I'LL
STUDY,
TOO.

YOU'LL
SEE.

I'M
GONNA
BE A
BETTER
PERSON.



YOU WANNA
LEAVE THE
GANG THAT
BAD? SHOW
US HOW BAD,
PRINCESS.



YOU'RE
SUCH A
MORON.



YOU
CAN'T FIX
WHAT'S
BEEN SO
BADLY
BROKEN.

BUT THEN
SHE WAS
PUNISHED,
SHE
MURMURED.

SHE WAS
HAPPY, BUT
CONFUSED.

SHE DIDN'T
KNOW THE REAL
REASON HE CAME
TO SEE HER.



I LIKE
RESEARCH.
AND
THINKING
THINGS OUT.

HE EVENTUALLY
GOT A JOB AT A
PHARMACEUTICAL
COMPANY.



...THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE YOU'D
HATE ME.




HE LOOKED
OVER HER
SCHOOLWORK
EVERY
WEEKEND.

You're
always
picking on
people! It
sucks!


Your hair
looks lovely
when you
leave it
down.

BACK
THEN...

BESIDES.



IT'S
HARD TO
STUDY BY
YOURSELF.



THERE ARE
PLENTY
OF OTHER
PLACES WE
CAN SEE
EACH OTHER.

IF YOU
THINK
THAT TINY
SCHOOL IS
THE ENTIRE
WORLD...

...YOU'VE
ONLY PROVEN
THAT YOU'RE
A CHILD.

GET
OUT.

"YOU GOT
WHAT YOU
DESERVED."

thud

WE'RE
DENYING YOU
ALTOGETHER.

NOW THAT
YOU'VE BEEN
DISCHARGED,
WE'RE DIS-
INHERITING
YOU.

...NO.

I DID
WHATEVER
THE HELL I
WANTED...

...AND NOW
I'M BEING
PUNISHED.

BUT DON'T
YOU DARE
BURDEN US
WITH ALL
OF THIS
AGAIN.

I GOT—
WHAT I
DESERVED.

LIVE
HOW YOU
WANT, DIE
HOW YOU
WANT.

IT'S
JUST
LIKE
THEY
SAY.

HER
PARENTS
GAVE SOME
EXCUSE TO
AVOID HER.

COPS
AND
TEACHERS
CAME BY.

SHE
COULDN'T
TAKE
THE HIGH
SCHOOL
ENTRANCE
EXAMS.

DAMMIT.

HE DID SO
MUCH TO
HELP ME
STUDY.

...GOD
DAMMIT.

ONE
PHRASE
KEPT
ECHOING IN
HER HEAD.

I
CAN'T
FACE
HIM.

WHEN
SHE
CAME
TO...

...SHE WAS
IN THE
HOSPITAL.



BUT
YOU'RE HER
PARENTS,
SO I HAVE
TO.

I HOPE TO
MARRY THIS
IMPERFECT
GIRL.

THIS IS A
PRIVATE
FAMILY
MATTER!

IT'S
OKAY,
SENSEI.

JUST
LEAVE
IT.

W
H
A
T
?!

I DO HATE
TO GIVE
YOU MY
OPINION.



AT
LEAST,
MORE
SO THAN
YOU.

I'D LIKE
TO THINK
THAT
I AM.



...DO YOU
OBJECT?



...HUH?

ARE YOU
SANE,
SIR?

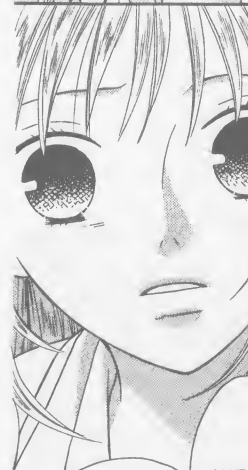
MARRY?

HER?



THAT
MEANS
SHE ISN'T
YOURS?

SO SHE
DIDN'T
TURN OUT
HOW YOU
WANTED.



I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T
REALIZE
YOU WERE
SAINTS.

WELL.

UNLESS YOU
BELIEVE YOU
CAN DROP
PARENTHOOD
THE MINUTE
IT BECOMES
INCONVENIENT.



S--

?!

SEN...



IF SHE
MAKES A
MISTAKE,
YOU WON'T
ACKNOWLEDGE
HER
AS YOUR
CHILD?



YOU
WEREN'T
SERIOUS,
WERE
YOU?!

WH-WHAT
YOU SAID
EARLIER.

KATSUJA!

K--



...IT'S
OKAY.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
GO THAT
FAR FOR
ME!

IT'S
OKAY!
REALLY!



OF
COURSE
I WAS.



I'M SORRY
I HAD TO
PROPOSE
LIKE THAT.



COME
WITH
ME.

DEAR!

THIS
WORLD
NEVER
CEASES TO
AMAZE ME.

DO WHAT
YOU WANT--
SHE'S NO
LONGER
IN THIS
HOUSEHOLD.

DEAR...

I MIGHT
CALL YOU
AGAIN IF I
NEED YOU
FOR THE
PAPERWORK.

IF IT'S NOT
A BOTHER,
I DON'T
CARE. NOW
GET OUT.



SENSEI!

I COULDN'T
BELIEVE
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU.

I HAD TO
CALL. YOUR
MOTHER SAID
YOU WERE
LEAVING THE
HOSPITAL
TODAY...

I WAS
WORRIED
WHEN I
SUDDENLY
STOPPED
HEARING
FROM YOU.

SENSEI...



SO.

THAT'S
WHEN I
FELL IN
LOVE.

WHEN YOU
CRIED AND
CONFERSED TO
LONELINESS...

...YOU
SEEMED
VERY
HUMAN
TO ME.



I
CAN'T
CRY.

BUT I
COULDN'T
BE SO
PAINFULLY
HONEST
AND CRY.

I THOUGHT
EVERYONE
AROUND ME
WAS UTTER
TRASH.

FOR A TIME,
I ALSO
MISUNDER-
STOOD.



I'M
HURT.

REALLY.

YOU THINK I
SAID THAT
OUT OF PITY?

BUT...!

DON'T
YOU
TRUST
ME?

I-I JUST
DON'T GET
IT! WHY
WOULD YOU
CHOOSE ME?!

WHY?!

I DON'T
GET YOU
AT ALL!

BECAUSE
YOU
CRIED.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO DO
ALL THIS
JUST TO
LOOK OUT
FOR ME!

YOU CAN
THROW
ME OUT.

YOU DID
ENOUGH.
I'M OKAY.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO DO
ALL THIS
ANYMORE!



CHOOSE
ME.

KYOKO.



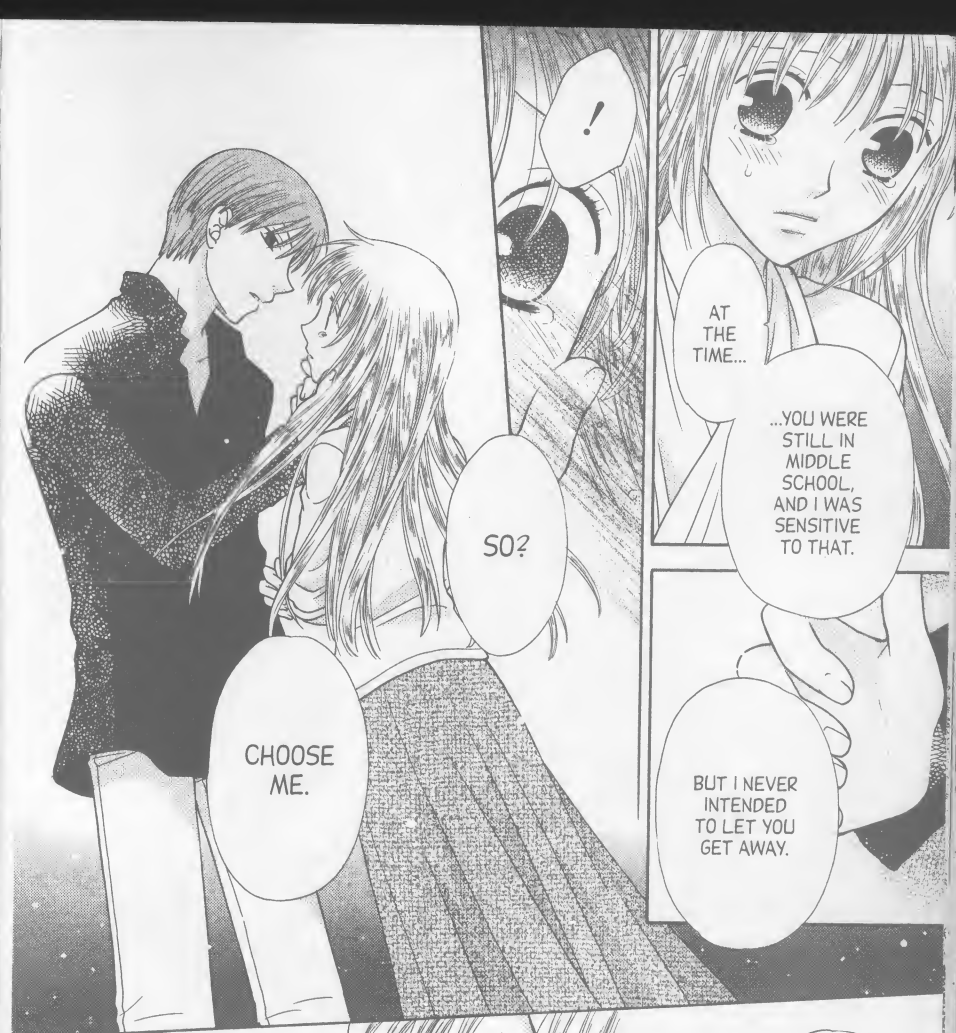
THIS IS
YOUR
FAULT.

YOU
WERE
BORN
LATE.

WHERE DO
YOU LEARN
WORDS
LIKE THAT?

KATSUYA...

DO YOU
HAVE A
LOLITA
COMPLEX?



SO?

CHOOSE
ME.

AT
THE
TIME...

...YOU WERE
STILL IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
AND I WAS
SENSITIVE
TO THAT.

BUT I NEVER
INTENDED
TO LET YOU
GET AWAY.



...THAT I
DON'T LIKE
WASTING
WORDS.

JUST REMEM-
BER...

I'LL SAY
IT AS
OFTEN AS
YOU LIKE.

IF YOU
STILL
CAN'T
BELIEVE
ME...

...I'LL SAY
WHATEVER
YOU NEED
TO HEAR.



Chapter 92



Continued →

- Kagura still loves Kyon. It's probably not something you can change easily.
- She's fighting with that side of herself.
- Her dream is to work at a day-care. It's a dream she can't reach the way she is now.



Thank you for taking such good care of my daughter.

I knew he was going to die, and I can't change that, but drawing him was really sad.

Katsuya-papa

- With his father, mother (died of an illness), and younger sister, Katsuya has a family of four. Had.
- As long as you love each other, age doesn't matter...! (There's an eight-year difference between him and Kyoko-san.)
- As a child he was contrary, which he's mentioned himself.

← To be continued



IT WASN'T JUST THEM.

NOBODY CELEBRATED IT.

ALL THE HONDAS WERE AGAINST IT, APPARENTLY.



EXCEPT FOR ONE.



KATSUYA HONDA'S FATHER.

THERE'S NO GREATER HAPPINESS THAN LIVING WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE.



I DON'T WANT IT! GET IT AWAY FROM ME!

I DON'T REALLY MIND EITHER WAY.

IT'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH ME!



IT'S GROSS AND I'M NOT DOING IT!

BUT IT'S RARE TO FIND A WOMAN SO OPPOSED TO A WEDDING.



THE TWO GOT MARRIED.

YES, YES.

THAT'S NOT WHY I'M MARRYING YOU!



ON HIS
DAYS
OFF...

...THE TWO
OF THEM
WENT OUT.



IT DIDN'T
MATTER
WHERE
THEY WENT.

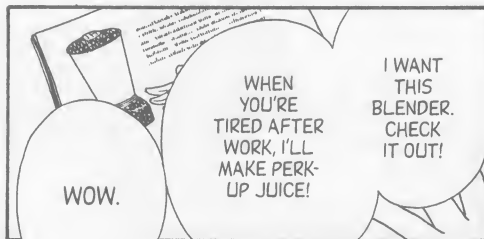


SINCE
WHEN
DO YOU
READ
THIS?

MAYBE
YOU DO
WANT
A RING.

NAH,
I'M
GOOD.

I'd just lose
the thing.



WHEN
YOU'RE
TIRED AFTER
WORK, I'LL
MAKE PERK-
UP JUICE!

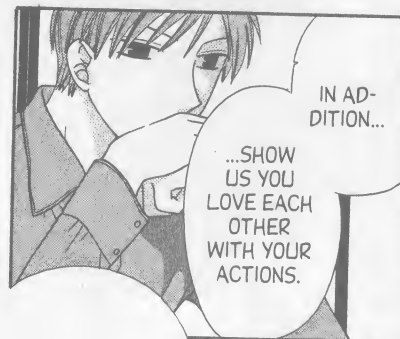
I WANT
THIS
BLENDER.
CHECK
IT OUT!

WOW.



I'LL BET YOU
COULD MAKE
SOMETHING
DISGUSTING.

DON'T
PREJUDGE
ME, SMART
GUY.



IN AD-
DITION...

...SHOW
US YOU
LOVE EACH
OTHER
WITH YOUR
ACTIONS.

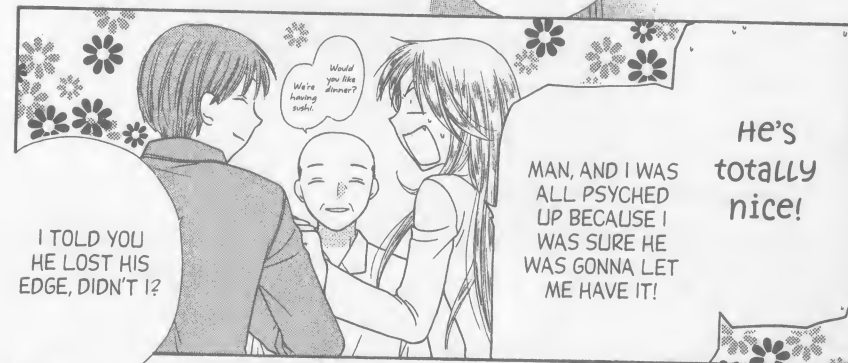
WE NEED TO
KNOW THAT
YOU'RE HAPPY
TOGETHER.



DON'T
DISREGARD THE
ADVICE OF YOUR
OBJECTORS,
EVEN IF IT'S
CRUEL.



BUT IT'S
TRUE THAT
YOU'RE
BOTH STILL
YOUNG.



I TOLD YOU
HE LOST HIS
EDGE, DIDN'T I?

Would
you like
dinner?
We're
having
sex!

MAN, AND I WAS
ALL PSYCHED
UP BECAUSE I
WAS SURE HE
WAS GONNA LET
ME HAVE IT!

He's
totally
nice!



THEY LIVED
NEAR THE
OCEAN.



Variety's
the
spice.

It's
weird
that I'm
home
last!

THE FACT
THAT THEY
WERE
THERE...

THAT WAS
ALL THAT
MATTERED.



YOU'RE
PREGNANT?

THEN...
YOU WENT
TO THE
HOSPITAL
ALONE?

WHY?



THEY JUST
HAD TO BE
TOGETHER.

HUH?

I GUESS
HE'S HOME
ALREADY.

WELCOME
HOME.

MISS NO-
EYEBROWS.



I'M
HOME!

RAISE
ANOTHER
HUMAN
BEING!

GIVE
BIRTH
TO A
PERSON.

I DON'T
THINK
I CAN
DO IT.

I'M NOT
AN IDIOT. I
KNOW I'VE
LIVED A
ROTTEN
LIFE.

I
DON'T...

"JUST WHO
THE HELL
ASKED YOU
TO HAVE
ME?!"

"YEAH.?"

WHAT IF
IT SAID...

IT
COULD
GET
PICKED
ON.

WHAT IF
THE BABY'S
MISERABLE
BECAUSE
OF ME?

NOT
FROM
ME?

...IT DIDN'T
WANNA BE
BORN?

IT COULD
CRY
BECAUSE
OF ME!

OR
HURT.

IT'S A
WHOLE
OTHER
HUMAN
BEING!

A
BABY!

I'M HAPPY
TO HAVE
YOURS
AND ALL.

BUT...

DO I HAVE
THE RIGHT
TO?

GIVE
BIRTH TO
A HUMAN
BEING?

...DO
THAT?

CAN
I...

I DON'T
THINK
I CAN
HANDLE
A BABY.

I...

I-I
DON'T...

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

s
q
u
e
e
z
e

I'M SURE
YOU'LL
BE FINE.

YOU'VE
ALREADY
PROVEN
THAT YOU
UNDERSTAND.

THIS
BABY
WILL BE
A HUMAN
BEING.

WE KNOW
WHAT WE
LIKE DONE
TO US.

AND WE
KNOW
WHAT
TEARS US
APART.

AS
FELLOW
HUMAN
BEINGS...

...WE JUST
HAVE TO
REMEMBER.

WE'LL
BE VERY
CLEAR.

IF IT DOES
SOMETHING
WRONG...

...WE'LL
EXPLAIN
WHY IT'S
WRONG.

WE'LL
TOUCH IT,
LISTEN
TO IT.

WE'LL
HOLD
THIS
CHILD
OFTEN.

I WONDER
HOW MOM
FELT...

I'D WANNA
DIE IF MY
KID SAID
THAT.

I'D
WANNA
DIE.

...WHEN I SAID
THAT TO HER
FACE?

I SAID
SUCH A
TERRIBLE
THING.

BUT I
DID IT.

IT WOULD
DESTROY
ME IF I
HEARD IT.

BUT I
HAD NO
PROBLEM
TELLING
HER.

KYOKO.

DAMMIT

DAMMIT

HOW
COULD I
HAVE SAID
THAT?!

...YEAH.

T
O
G
E
T
H
E
R.

I WANT YOU
TO HAVE
THE BABY.

MISS NO-
EYEBROWS.

AND
THAT...

THE MOST
PRECIOUS
THING IN
THE WORLD.

...WAS
HOW SHE
WAS BORN.

TOGETHER.

LISTEN.

WE MAY
GIVE INTO OUR
FEELINGS
AND END UP
STRIKING IT.

LET'S
MAKE
SURE TO
APOLOGIZE.

THEN
WE'LL
HOLD IT
AGAIN.

...HOW
ABOUT
THAT?

WE'LL
RAISE
IT LIKE
THAT.

NOT...

...BY
MYSELF.

...

HUMAN BEINGS ARE STRANGE CREATURES.

AS PEOPLE COME ACROSS ONE ANOTHER...

...THEY PRODUCE VARIOUS OUTCOMES.

GOOD THINGS, SOMETIMES.

AND OTHER TIMES, BAD.

Yup!
HE'S GOOD WITH THE BATH. YOU SHOULD SEE IT, TOTO-SAN.

KATSUYA...

*Toto-san → Toto-sama → Otou-san

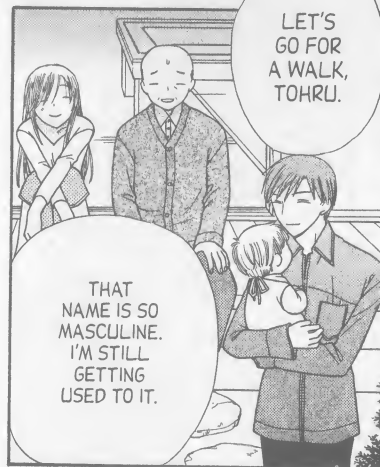
IS KATSUYA DOING HIS FAIR SHARE OF THE PARENTAL DUTIES?

AND YET HERE HE IS, HONESTLY IN LOVE.

WHEN KATSUYA SAID HE WOULD MARRY...

I WAS DEEPLY HAPPY.

THAT BOY NEVER SHOWED ANY ATTACHMENT OR PASSION.



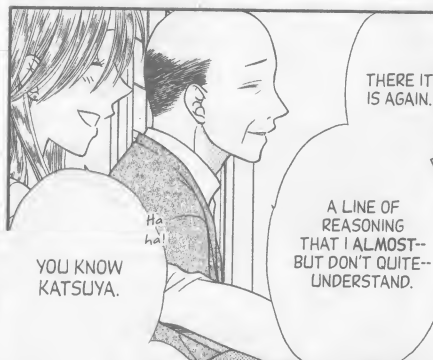
LET'S GO FOR A WALK, TOHRU.

THAT NAME IS SO MASCULINE. I'M STILL GETTING USED TO IT.



HIDDEN WHAT?

KATSUYA SAYS IT BRINGS OUT HER HIDDEN FLAVOR.



THERE IT IS AGAIN.

A LINE OF REASONING THAT I ALMOST-- BUT DON'T QUITE-- UNDERSTAND.

YOU KNOW KATSUYA.

BUT I DO GET WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY.



LIKE HOW YOU ADD SALT TO SOMETHING SWEET TO MAKE IT BETTER.

HE WANTS TOHRU TO BE THAT KINDA GIRL.

TOHRU.



I'LL
GET IT
MYSELF,
THANK
YOU.

KATSUYA
ISN'T
BITTER
TOWARDS
YOU.

TOTO-
SAN.



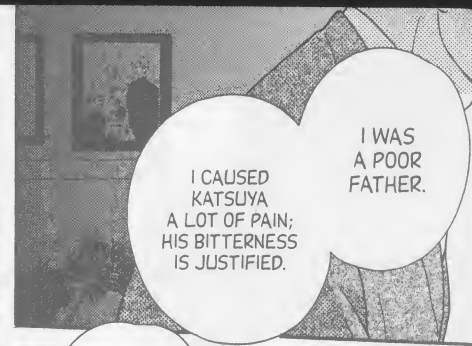
HE
COMES
TO SEE
YOU.

I THINK
IT'S OBVIOUS
HE'S NOT
MAD.



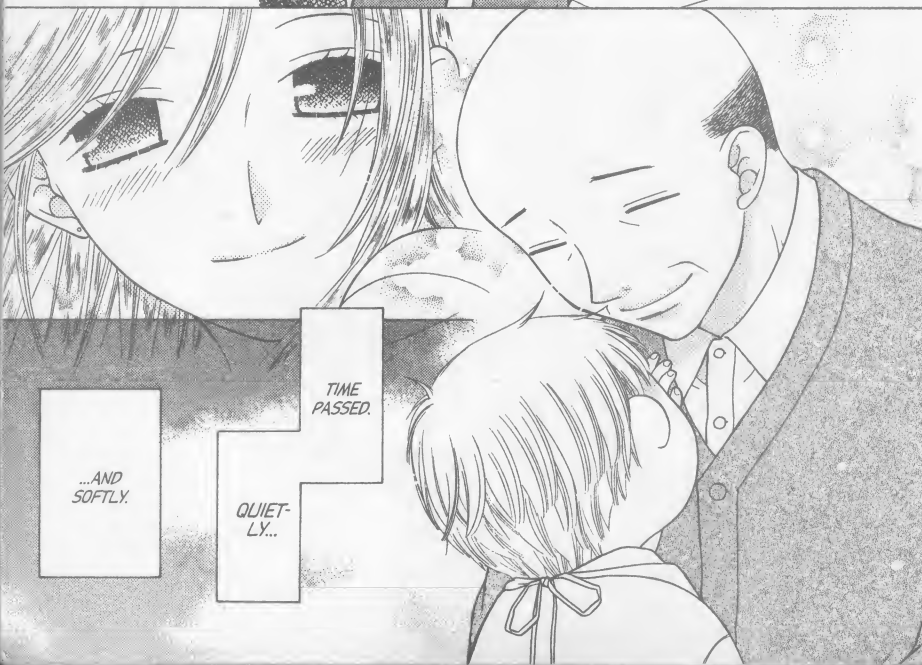
BUT HE
BECAME
HAPPY,
AS HE
SHOULD.

WE
HAVE
YOU TO
THANK
FOR
THAT.



I CAUSED
KATSUYA
A LOT OF PAIN;
HIS BITTERNESS
IS JUSTIFIED.

I WAS
A POOR
FATHER.



...AND
SOFTLY.

QUIET-
LY...

TIME
PASSED.



KYOKO.

YEAH?

IT'S A
LITTLE
COLD. DID
WE BRING
TOHRU'S
COAT?

I'll
go
get
it.

YEAH--
IT'S IN
THE BAG.



THANK
YOU...

KYOKO-
SAN.



YOU MADE
THE WOMAN
FEARED AS
THE RED
BUTTERFLY
FAINT. YOU'RE
SOMETHING
ELSE, TOHRU.

THE THREE
OF THEM
STILL
WENT OUT.

B-blood.
My child is
bleeding.

...AND
SMILING.

...HIS
FACE
WAS SO
GENTLE.

SHE
LOVED
IT SO
MUCH...

...SHE
WANTED
TO CRY.

SHE
WATCHED
HIM.

WHEN
KATSUYA
HONDA
HELD
TOHRU...

TOGETHER...



TOHRU
A
A
A
H!
U!

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

TOHRU
HASN'T
CHANGED
MUCH
SINCE
SHE WAS
LITTLE.

I BONKED
TOHRU IN
THE FACE!
I'M SO SORRY,
TOHRU!

WHA?

DOES IT
HURT? IT'S
GOTTA HURT!
MOMMY'S
SORRY, BABY!

I'LL CALL
YOU AGAIN
WHEN I
GET BACK.

OKAY.
BUNDLE
UP AND
GET SOME
SLEEP.

AND GO
TO THE
DOCTOR!

DO YOU
THINK IT'S
TIME...

...TO MAKE
HER A
SIBLING?

...MISS NO-
EYEBROWS.

I WILL.
GET SOME
SLEEP
YOURSELF.

GOOD
NIGHT...

I'VE BEEN
THINKING.

YES.

...IS
THAT
WHAT
YOU
WANT?

DO YOU
STILL
HAVE
THAT
COLD?

SEE A
DOCTOR
ALREADY!

YES.

TOH

SHE
WAS
HAPPY
ENOUGH
TO CRY.

AND THAT
FEELING
STAYED
WITH HER.

I DON'T
HAVE
THE
TIME.

I'M FINE.
DON'T
CATCH
MY COLD
AND PASS
IT ON TO
TOHRU.

Ha
ha.

YOU'RE
MAKING
ME WORRY.
I'M COMING
OVER THERE.

I
know
you're
busy.

THAT'S
NO
EXCUSE!

K
A
T
S
U
Y
A.

YEAH.
HOW IS
TOHRU,
BY THE
WAY?

I'LL BE
LEAVING
TOMORROW.

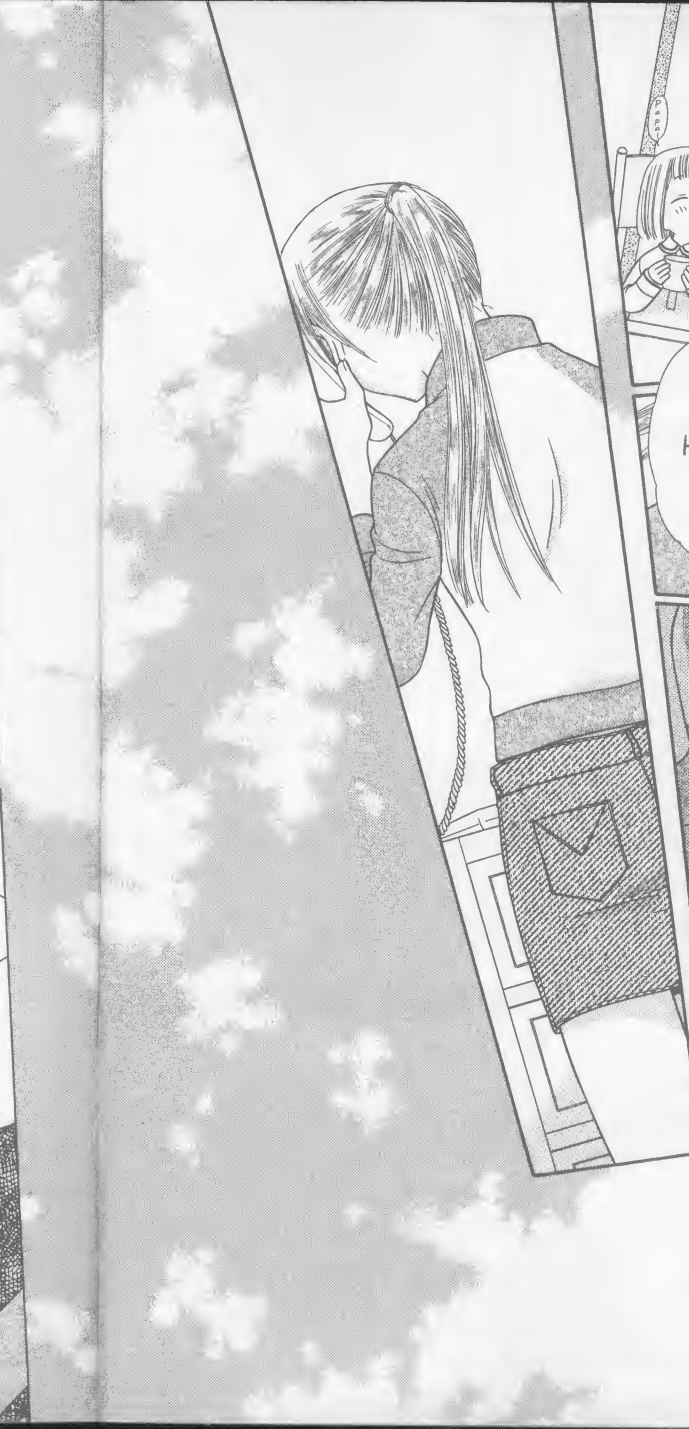
YEAH?

ALL
RIGHT.

SHE'S
ASLEEP
IN BED
RIGHT
NOW.

SHE'S
FINE.

YOUR
BUSINESS
TRIP'S
ALMOST
OVER,
RIGHT?



Oh!
THAT
MUST BE
PAPA.

HELLO?

HELLO?

HELLO?

MORE.

BEAT
THE
HELL
OUT OF
ME.

...KEEP
MAKING
IT MY
FAULT.

KEEP
BLAMING
ME.

I WANT
YOU TO
JUST...

MORE.

BLAME
ME
MORE.

KEEP ME
FROM
STANDING...

MORE.

...EVER
AGAIN.

SUCH A
YOUNG
MAN...

HE SAID THE
COLD HAD
GOTTEN
WORSE.

THEY
DIDN'T
REALIZE
IN TIME.

IN THE
MORNING.

HE
HAD HIS
WHOLE LIFE
AHEAD
OF HIM.

SHE WAS
ONLY
CHEATING
HIM.

I WAS
AGAINST
THEIR
MARRIAGE
FROM THE
START.

SHE WAS
JUST
FOOLING
AROUND.

SHE
SHOULD'VE
CARED
FOR HIM
WHILE HE
WAS SICK!

WHAT
WAS HIS
WIFE
DOING?

WHAT
WILL
THEY
DO WITH
THEIR
CHILD?

POOR
KATSUYA-
KUN.

MORE.

HE WAS
BETTER
OFF
SINGLE.



close!



I'LL BE
INSIDE,
SO PLEASE
CALL ME IF
YOU NEED
ANYTHING.

I'M SORRY TO
MAKE YOU
COME ALL
THIS WAY.

THE
WHOLE
THING
WAS TOO
SHORT.

KATSUYA
HONDA WAS
CREMATED.

AFTER
THAT...

IT WAS
TOO
SHORT.



...HE WAS
SMOKE
AND
WHITE
ASH.

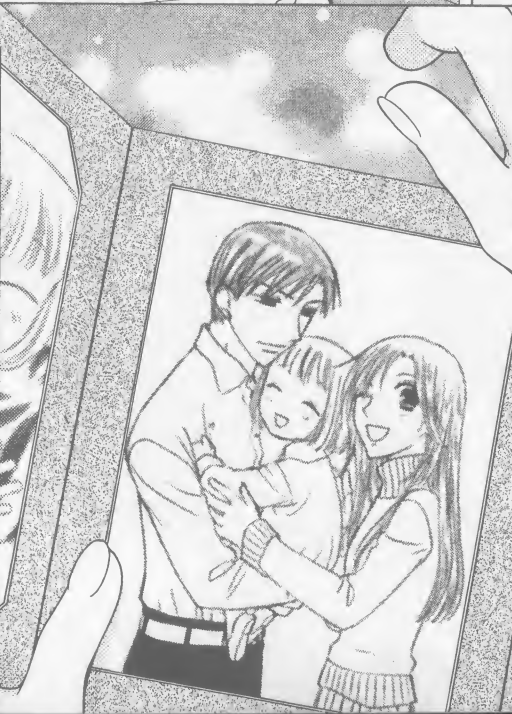
WE
THOUGHT
WE WOULD
ARRANGE
EVERYTHING
AND SEND
IT TO YOU...

...BUT THEN WE
THOUGHT THAT
HONDA-KUN WOULD
WANT SOMEONE
FROM HIS FAMILY
TO DO IT.

THIS IS...
THE ROOM
HE WAS
USING.

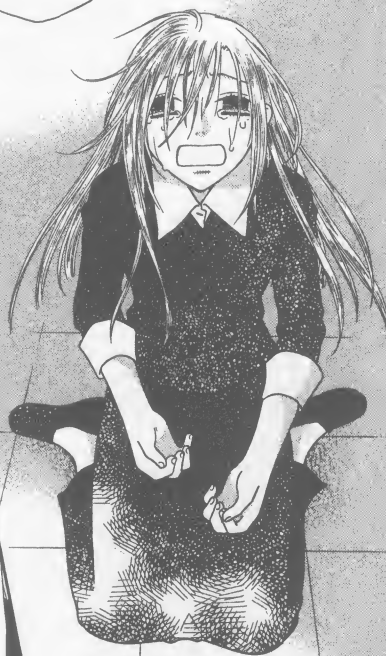
IT'S BEEN
LEFT THE
WAY IT
WAS WHEN
HE DIED.

c
r
e
a
k
1...



DON'T
LEAVE
ME!

PLEASE!



HE'S
NOT
HERE!

KATSUYA!

//
thud
#

D--

DO...

open
カギ

.....



NN...

HE'S NOT
HERE.



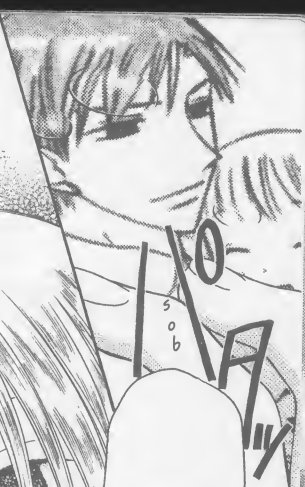
HE'S NOT
HERE
ANYMORE.



.....
!



HE'S NOT
ANYWHERE
ANYMORE.



SO
s o b
A
ik

NN...



.....

NNGH!

Chapter 93



WHY IS
THE DAY
STILL
COMING?



WHY ARE
THOSE
PEOPLE
SMILING?



WHY DOES
THE TV TRY
TO TELL ME
TOMORROW'S
DAMN
WEATHER?



WHY?

I'LL
NEVER
SEE
HIM...

...EVER
AGAIN.



KATSUYA.

HE'S NOT
HERE
ANYMORE.

HE'S NOT
ANYWHERE.



...YOU CALLED TO SAY THAT?

I DID.

I'M ONLY SAYING THIS ONCE.

DON'T TRY COMING BACK HERE WITH THAT CHILD.

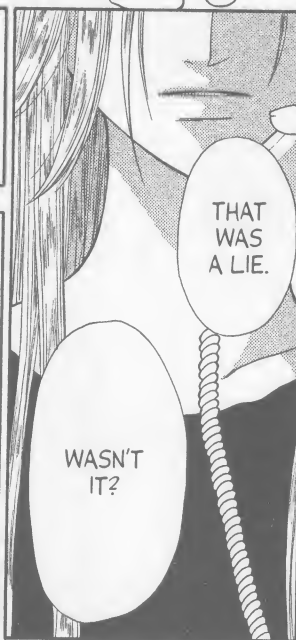
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING YOU BACK.



WHA--

IT'S A LIE.

THERE'S NOBODY NEEDED IN THIS WORLD.



THAT WAS A LIE.

WASN'T IT?



DAD.

YOU TOLD ME A LONG TIME AGO...

...THAT THIS WORLD HAS PEOPLE WHO ARE NEEDED AND PEOPLE WHO AREN'T.



SHE SAID...

...SHE DIDN'T REMEMBER MUCH.

FROM THE PERIOD RIGHT AFTER HE DIED

IT WAS A BLANK.

THE ONLY THING SHE KNEW WAS HER CONSTANT DESPAIR.



ON THE DAY KATSUYA DIED...

...WHY DIDN'T THE WORLD DIE WITH HIM?

THEY
NEED
THAT.

I'M SURE
THAT'S WHY
PEOPLE...

...SEARCH
FOR ONE
ANOTHER.

NEEDED
HIM.

I
LOVED
HIM.

BUT AFTER
I FINALLY
FOUND
HIM...

KATSUYA
WAS THAT
"SOMEONE."

KATSUYA
WAS
MINE.

KATSUYA.

THEY WANT
TO NEED AND
BE NEEDED.

THEY NEED
SOMEONE
WHO'LL
FIT THAT.

THE
WORLD
DOESN'T
NEED...
OR
KATSUYA.

...ANY
OF US.



...DOESN'T
NEED
ANYONE.



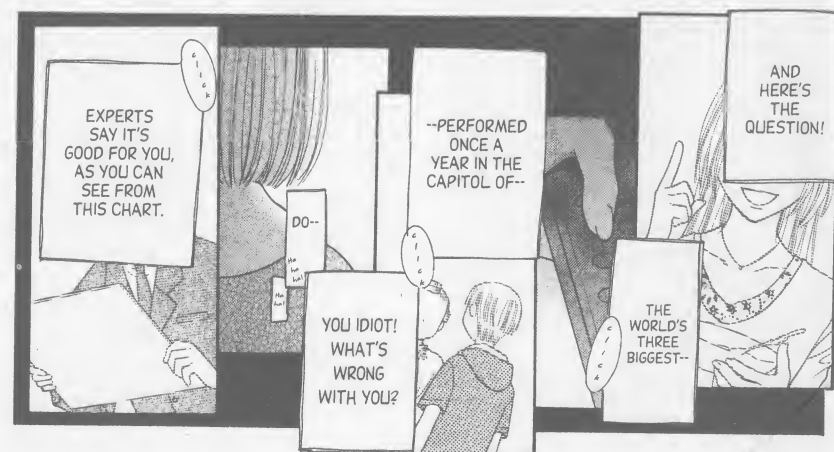
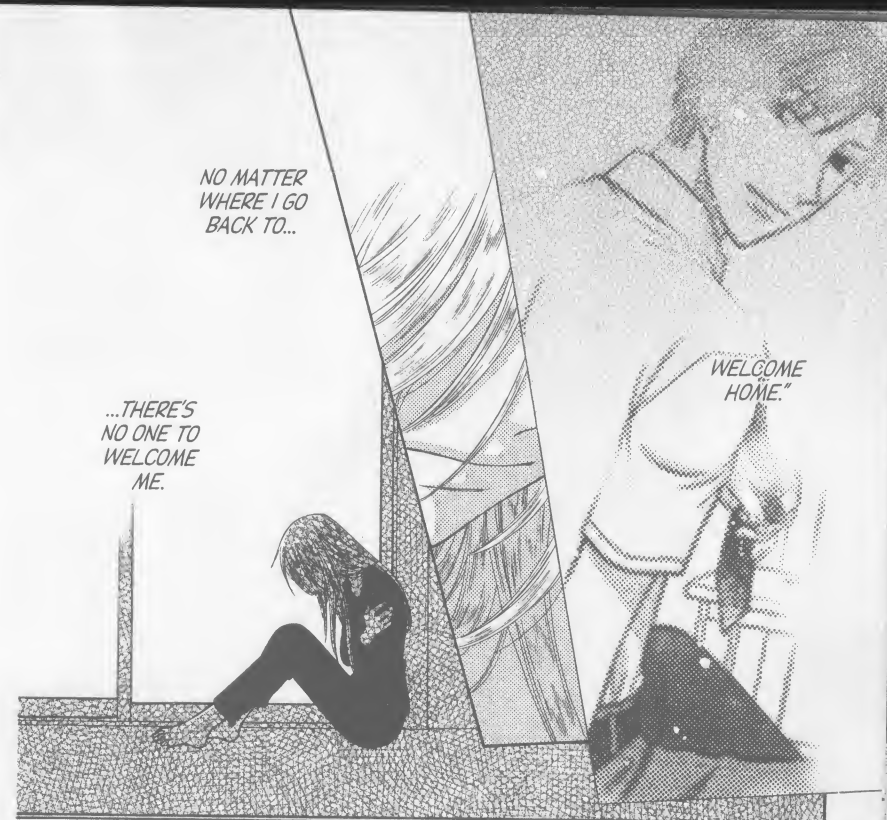
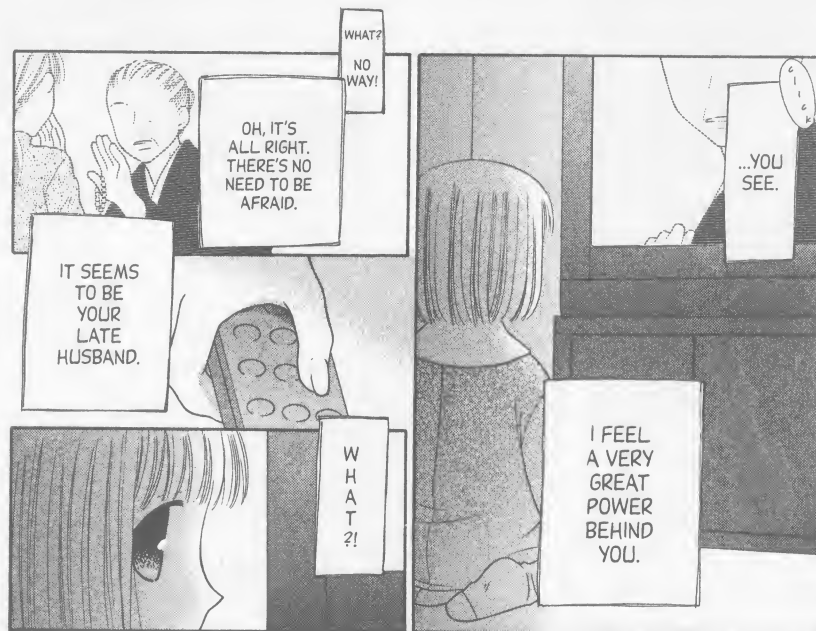
NOT A
SINGLE
PERSON.

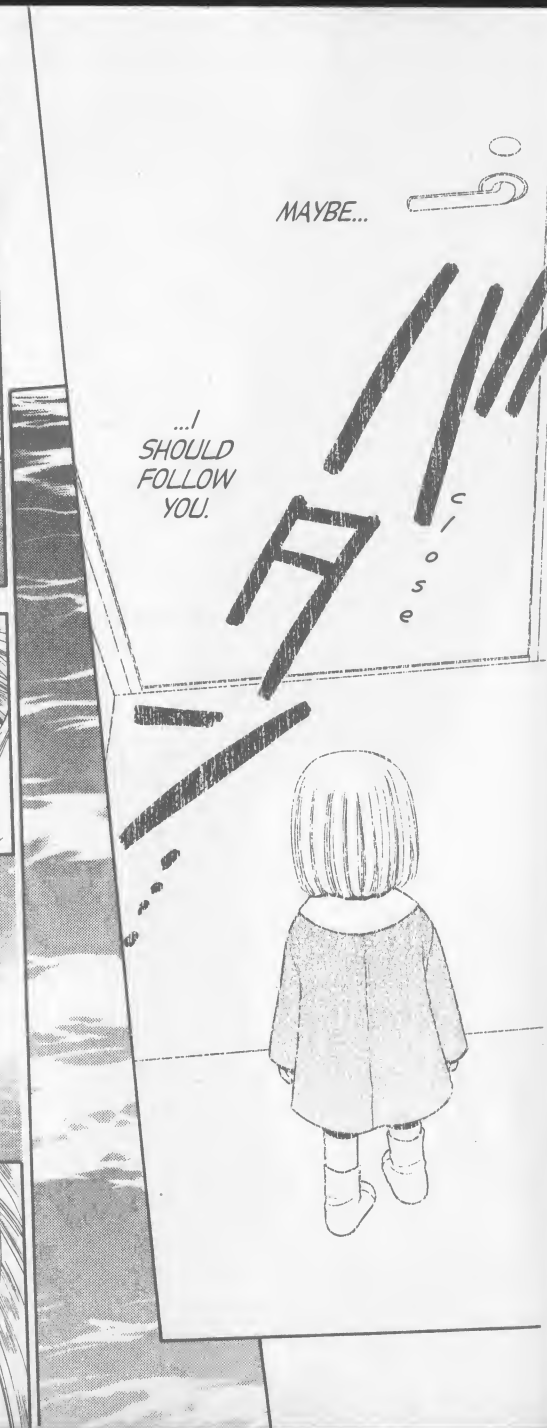
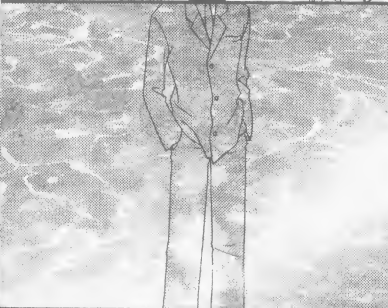
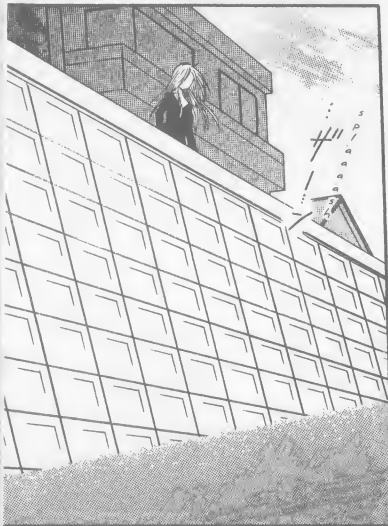
PARENTS...

TEACHERS,
GREAT
MEN AND
WOMEN...

...KIDS, OR
ADULTS.

ME.





MAYBE...

...I
SHOULD
FOLLOW
YOU.



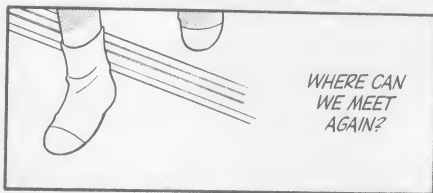
c
i
s
e



I WANNA
GO SEE
KATSUYA.



WHERE
ARE YOU?



WHERE CAN
WE MEET
AGAIN?

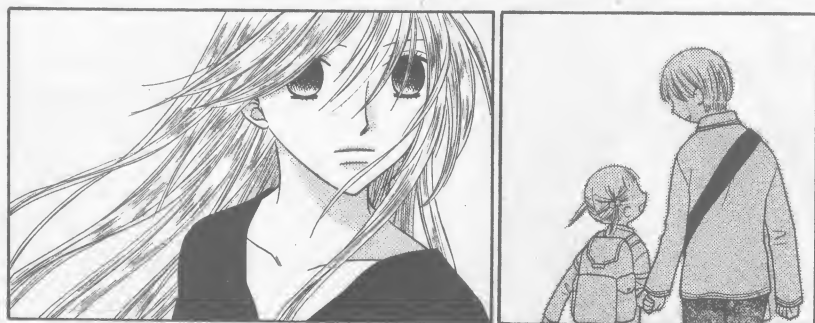


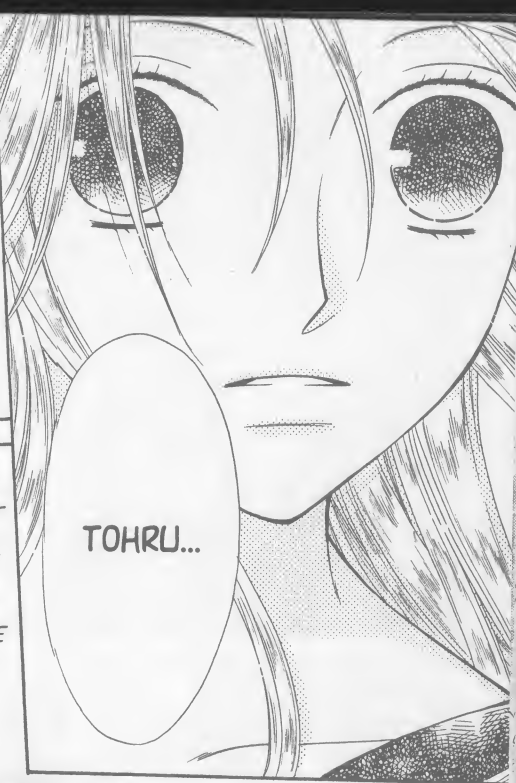
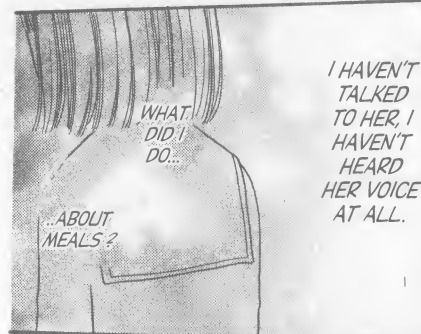
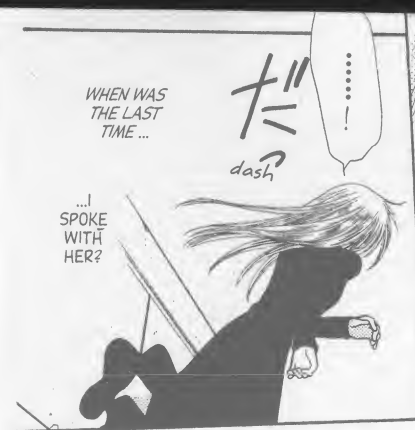
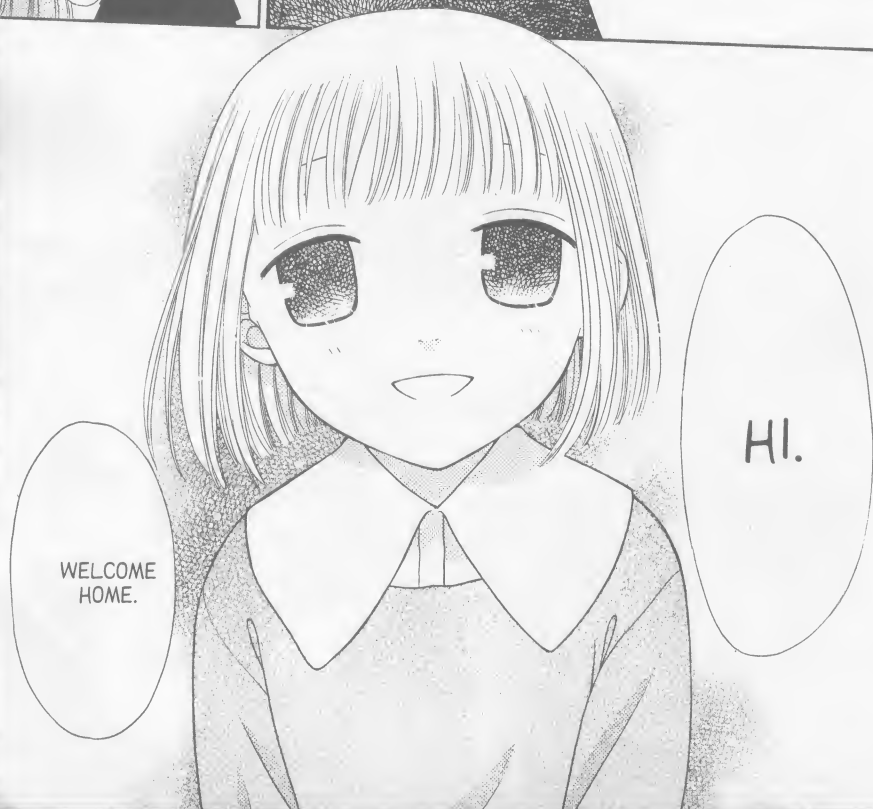
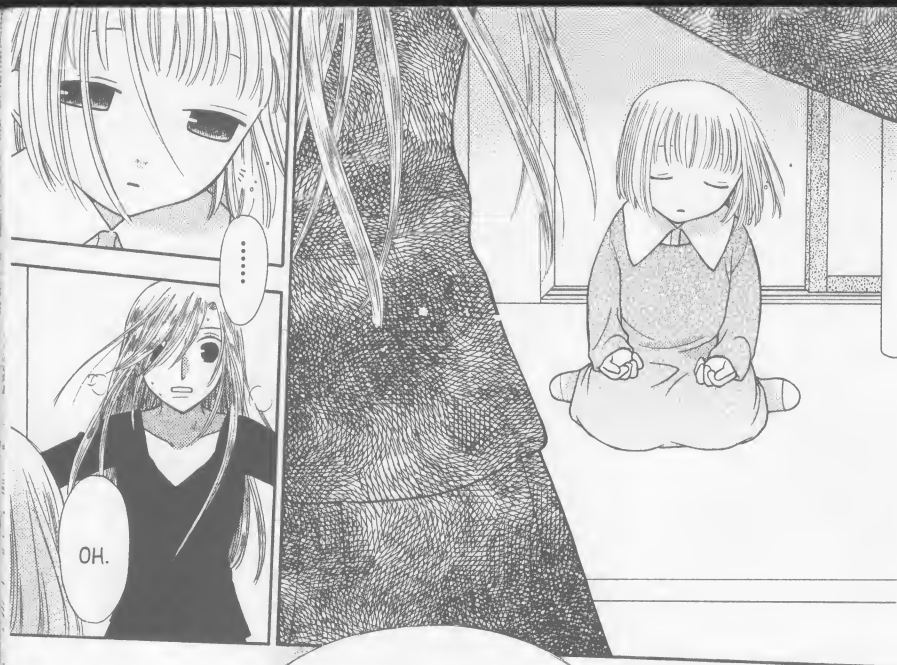
YOUR
HUSBAND'S
BEEN VERY
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.

YOU
MUSTN'T
CRY
FOR HIM
FOREVER.

HE'S
WATCHING
OVER YOU,
SO YOU
HAVE TO BE
STRONG.

I-I WANNA
SEE HIM.





IT'S THE
ONLY WAY
I LEARN.

THANK
YOU,
TOHRU.

I'M SUCH
AN IDIOT.

I
ALWAYS...

...HAVE
TO
SCREW
UP ONCE

I'M
SORRY...

FOR
WAITING
FOR ME.

I'M SORRY
YOU HAD
TO WAIT!



...I'M
SORRY!

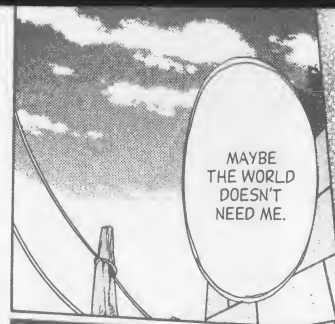
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH ME?


I'M
HOME...!

I'M SO
SORRY!

I'M
SORRY!

I'M
HOME!





IT'S
TRUE,
ISN'T
IT?

FROM THE
BEGINNING,
I'D ALWAYS
FELT...

EVEN
YOU.

ISN'T
THAT
WHY MY
MOM
DIED?

YOU
SMILED
AT ME.

BUT
NOW...

IN THE END,
I KNEW YOU
WANTED TO
TELL ME
IT WAS MY
FAULT.

...YOU
HATE
ME.

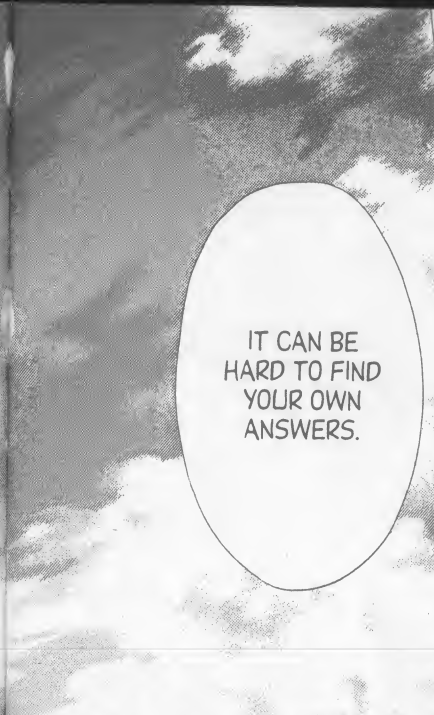
...LIKE I WAS
BORN TO BE
HATED. THAT
I WAS ONLY
ALIVE TO HURT
PEOPLE.

HER
WORDS...

...SOUNDED
SO STUPID
TO ME

I WAS STILL
A KID, I
GUESS--
THAT WAS
PART OF IT.

BUT
MORE
THAN
THAT.



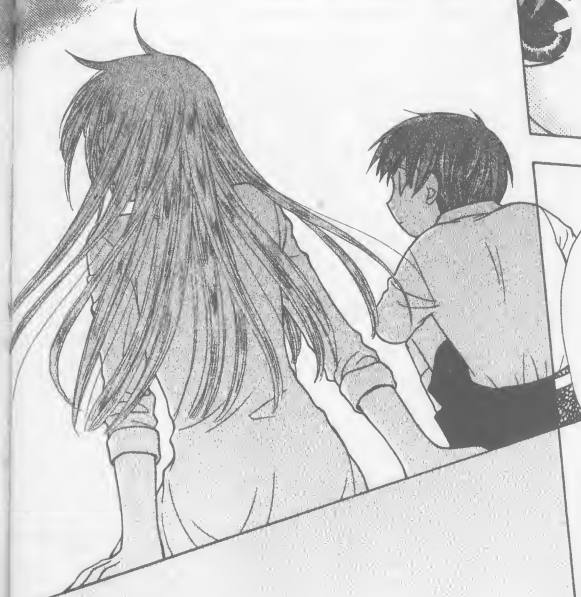
IT CAN BE
HARD TO FIND
YOUR OWN
ANSWERS.



...HOW LONG
YOU'LL
TAKE.

IT
MAKES
ME
WONDER.

HOW LOST
YOU'LL
ALL GET...



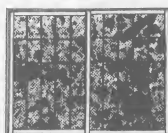


IT ISN'T
YOUR
FAULT,
KYO.



DO WHAT
YOUR
MOTHER
SAYS.

COME
INSIDE
WITH YOUR
MOTHER.



IF YOU
DON'T...

LET'S
LIVE IN
HERE
FOREVER.

COME
ON.



YOU
DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING
WRONG.

BUT...

...YOU
MUSTN'T
GO OUT-
SIDE.

THE
OUTSIDE IS
AN AWFUL
PLACE.



thu-thump

ba-dump





YOUR
MOM'S GONE
AHEAD.
SHE'S
WAITING
FOR YOU.

YOU
HAVE
TO GO
INSIDE.

I'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU.

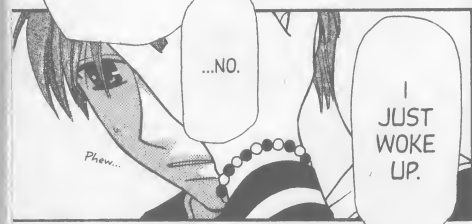
OR DO YOU
WANT
MORE
TERROR?

DO
IT.



ARE YOU
SICK? HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?!

WHAT'S
WRONG,
KYO? YOUR
FACE IS ALL
WHITE!



...NO.

I
JUST
WOKE
UP.



Ah-
ha!

I KNOW.
YOU HAD
A SCARY
DREAM,
DIDN'T
YA?

YOU GET
THOSE WHEN
YOU SLEEP
AT WEIRD
TIMES!

SORTA...
I GUESS.



I WONDER IF
IT'LL COOK
PROPERLY IN
THIS SHAPE.

I'M SURE
IT'LL BE
FINE!

creek

LEAVE
IT TO--



KYO-
KUN?!



Ha ha!



HOW
'BOUT
THIS ONE,
HUH?!

It's
TOHRU!

Shaped like
an enigma!

WOW!
THANK YOU
SO MUCH!

Yay!
Ah ha
ha!



I'M
SUCH
AN
ASS.

EVEN I
HATE
MYSELF
FOR
THINKING
IT.

I KNOW
I HAVE
NO
RIGHT.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
GIVE ME
NIGHT-
MARES.

I'LL
STAY
AWAY
FROM
HER.

IT
WON'T
HAPPEN.

TOHRI.

SHE COULD
NEVER LIKE
ME BACK.

THE
IDEA IS
JUST...
STUPID.

I HAVE
TO KNOW
MY
PLACE.

I CAN'T
INTERPRET
THINGS
WRONG.

IT
WON'T...



...HUH?

OH.

WHAT
IT
WAS...

Okay,
Kyo-kun!

I'VE HEARD
THAT IT'S
GOOD TO
TALK ABOUT
SCARY
DREAMS.

HUH?

WHAT
WAS THE
DREAM
ABOUT?

DON'T
DELIBERATE
IN FRONT OF
HONDA-SAN.

YOU'LL
ONLY
WORRY
HER.

WHAT
WAS IT
ABOUT?

IT WAS A
WARNING.

THAT'S WHY
I HAD THE
DREAM.

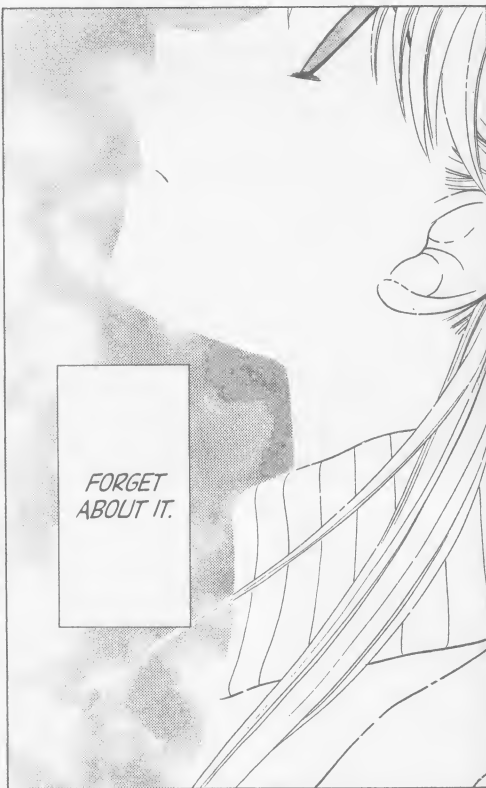
I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT
IMPOSSIBLES.

You
mean
snapping
back.

Kyo's
gagging
back!

SH-SHUT UP!
IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT
IT WAS ABOUT--
I'M ALREADY
AWAKE.

Hey!



I'LL STOP THINKING ABOUT STUFF THAT'S NEVER GONNA HAPPEN.



Chapter 94

"EVERYONE
HAS TO LOSE
THEIR WAY
ONCE."

"IT'S THE
ONLY
WAY THEY
LEARN."



SOUNDS
DEPRESSING
TO ME.

HOW
WONDERFUL!
SO YOU'LL
BOTH BE
DANCING?!

Huh.
I
SUPPOSE
IT IS.

I JUST
REALIZED
SOMETHING!
THIS YEAR'S
DANCE IS HARU
AND ME!

"EVERYONE"



THE MOUNTAIN OF WORK FOR THIS YEAR IS PRETTY MUCH DONE.

I AM "BLANK."

PHEW.

FINALLY.



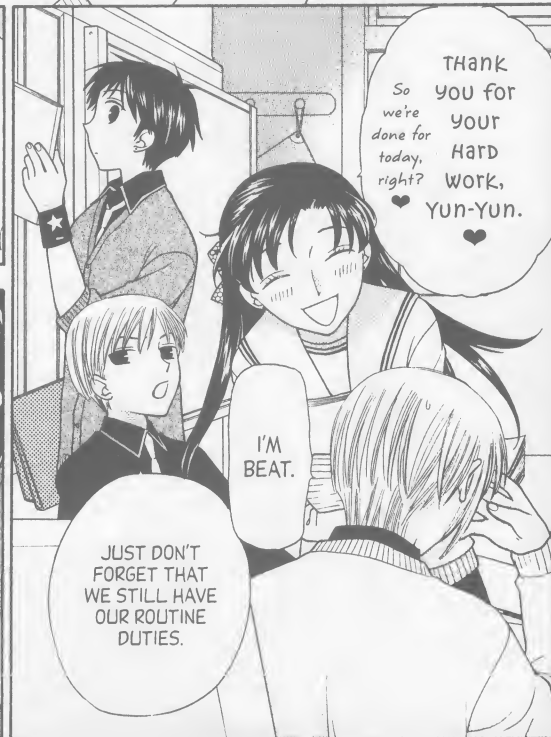
STOP WRECKING EVERY PARTY!

CHOP

DAH!

HEY! DID YOU EVEN TAKE CARE OF YOUR SHARE?!

'COURSE I HAVE.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK, YUN-YUN.
So we're done for today, right?
♡ ♡

I'M BEAT.

JUST DON'T FORGET THAT WE STILL HAVE OUR ROUTINE DUTIES.



SCHOOL DE
MEMBER
ASSIGNN

"IF THERE'S A COLOR YOU WANT, GO AHEAD AND SHOUT IT OUT!"

"NO, NO! PINK IS KIMI! KIMI!"

"WHAT COLOR DO YOU LIKE?"

THE MOMENT HE ASKED ME THAT...

"KURAGI-SAN."

...I SUDDENLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I WAS BEING ASKED, WHO THE PERSON IN FRONT OF ME WAS, OR EVEN WHAT DEFINED ME.

Continued →

He didn't really fight with his father, but there was a "rift" between them for a long time.

Even after his mother's death, he didn't have much contact with his father. When he took Kyoko-san to meet his father in Chapter 92, it was their first reunion in a long time.

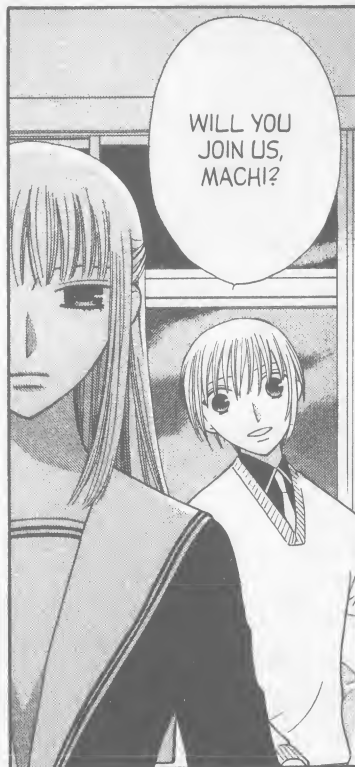
The reason he went to work for a pharmaceutical company is that, in a corner of his mind, he thought of his mother (who died from an illness).

His father's head is smooth and shiny (laugh), so he thought he might also go bald in the future.

He just mused on it (laugh), but he didn't try to do anything about it.

Back when Katsuya's face never really appeared, I received anxious letters asking, "Is he actually Kyo's father? Are Kyo and Tohru siblings?!" Um, huh?

Since drawing Katsuya, I think I've developed a weakness for Papa characters. It even hits me when I play video games.



WILL YOU JOIN US, MACHI?



CELEBRATE, HUH...?

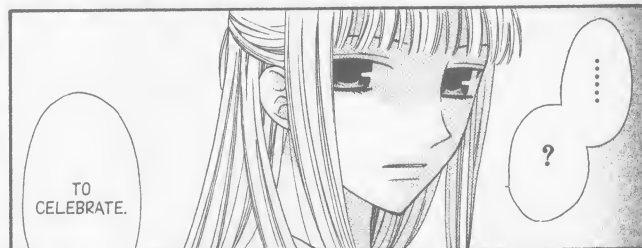
OUR ROUTINE DUTIES!

YOU'RE A WORKAHOLIC, NAO.



NONE OF YOU ARE NEARLY SERIOUS ENOUGH!

HEY.



TO CELEBRATE.

?



WILL YOU COME TOMORROW?

WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING IT.

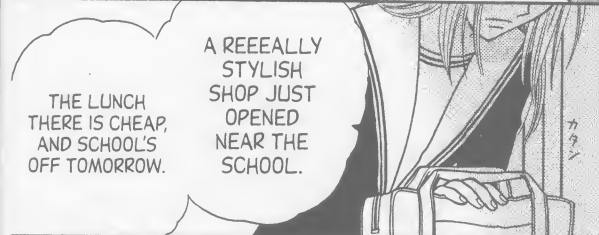


BY ALL MEANS.

RUNNING?!

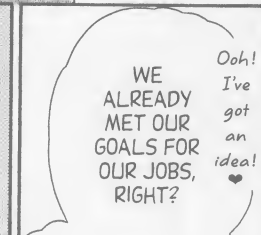
IF THE WORK WASN'T DONE, I'D BE RUNNING AWAY NOW!

It's all good!



A REEEALLY STYLISH SHOP JUST OPENED NEAR THE SCHOOL.

THE LUNCH THERE IS CHEAP, AND SCHOOL'S OFF TOMORROW.



WE ALREADY MET OUR GOALS FOR OUR JOBS, RIGHT?

Ooh! I've got an idea! ♥



AND you've been Hoping to take Kimi there, Haven't you?

I can tell. ♥

HERE COMES MISS DEMURE.

HAVE WE.



LET'S GO CELEBRATE TOMORROW!

CELEBRATE?



I'M
SORRY,
THEN.

I
SUPPOSE.



BUT
STILL...



BESIDES.

I DON'T
THINK MY
PREFERENCES
ARE ANY OF
YOUR CONCERN,
PRESIDENT.



YOU
MAKE ME
WONDER.

WHAT DOES
THE WORLD
LOOK LIKE
THROUGH
YOUR EYES?



IT'S OKAY, IT'S
OKAY. IF MACHI
AND NAO-CHAN
AND KAKERU
CAN'T COME,
DON'T PUSH
YOURSELVES.

♥
YUN-YUN
WOULD
AGREE.
♥

HEY,
NOW.

THAT
WOULD
BE A
DATE.

We were
planning
a party.



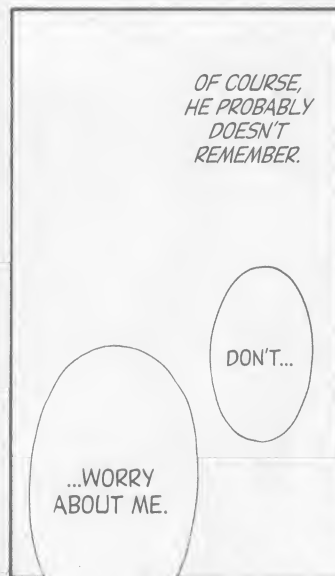
THEN
YOU
DON'T
LIKE THE
SHOP?

?

OH. DID
YOU
HAVE
PLANS?

NO.

I'LL...
PASS.



OF COURSE,
HE PROBABLY
DOESN'T
REMEMBER.

DON'T...

...WORRY
ABOUT ME.



IT'S
HAPPENING
AGAIN.

HE ASKS
ME AND
I DON'T
KNOW.



Hm.
MAYBE
WE CAN
FIND SOME
OTHER
PLACE
YOU LIKE?



AGAIN.



OH, I
GET IT.
BECAUSE
YUN-
YUN'S A
PRINCESS.

BIG SCARY
CROWDS
MAKE THE
LITTLE
PRINCESS
FAINT.

HA!

NOT
ESPECIALLY, I
DON'T THINK.
WHY?

Wart.
WILL THERE
BE A LOT
OF PEOPLE
WHERE
WE'RE
GOING?



I'm
jealous!

.....
THEN
I'LL SEND
YOU OUT
SHOPPING
AT NIGHT
SOME DAY.

yes. I WAS
GIVEN
A HIGH-
SOCIETY
UPBRINGING.



SEE
YOU
LATER,
MACHI.

YEAH.

LET'S
GO, YUKI.

FINE.

STOP
BEING
STUPID
AND
MOVE.
The
gate's
closing.



I AM TOO
NORMAL!
DON'T MAKE
ME SMACK
YOU!

YOUR
NATURALNESS IS
SCARY! NORMAL
PEOPLE CAN'T
SAY THAT
STUFF WITH A
STRAIGHT FACE!

You're
violent!
And in
denial!

Scary
boy!

I WROTE
DOWN THE
TIME AND
PLACE
WE'LL
MEET.

Okay!



Kim's going
on a date
now!

YUP.

Sigh.
ALL
RIGHT.

DID YOU
GET THAT,
KAKERU?



Here.
Just in
case.
I'M OFF
TO THE
OL' JOB!

MACHI.

WHY
ARE YOU
SCREAMING?
AND DON'T
INTERRUPT
ME!

Shut
up!

HE'S A
NATURAL
IDIOT!



THAT'S RIGHT--
YOU JUST
JOINED THAT,
DIDN'T
YOU?

...STUDENT
COUNCIL.

AND
HOW ARE
THINGS?

ハッ
ハッ
ハッ

ANYTHING
NEW?



MACHI?

I LET
IT RING
FOR A
WHILE.

WERE
YOU OUT
PLAYING?



HAVE YOU
MADE ANY
FRIENDS?

HOW'S
KAKERU-
KUN
DOING?



ARE YOU
GETTING
ALONG?



...NO.

NOTHING'S
CHANGED.



HELLO?





"DULL"...?



poop

poop

poop

I'LL
TALK
TO YOU
SOON.

I'M
COMING!

WELL,
I'LL LET
YOU
GO FOR
TODAY.

BE MORE
OPEN WITH
ME NEXT TIME,
WILL YOU?



I HAVEN'T
EVEN
THOUGHT
ABOUT IT.

THE
COLORS I
LIKE THE
PLACES
I LIKE

I DON'T
KNOW ANY
OF THAT.



I'M ONLY
DESPERATE TO
ANSWER THE
EXPECTATIONS
OF OTHERS.

BUT I WAS
ABANDONED.



IT'S
TRUE, I
GUESS.

"I" AM
"DULL."



MACHI.



MACHI?

NOT THE
SILENT
TREATMENT
AGAIN.

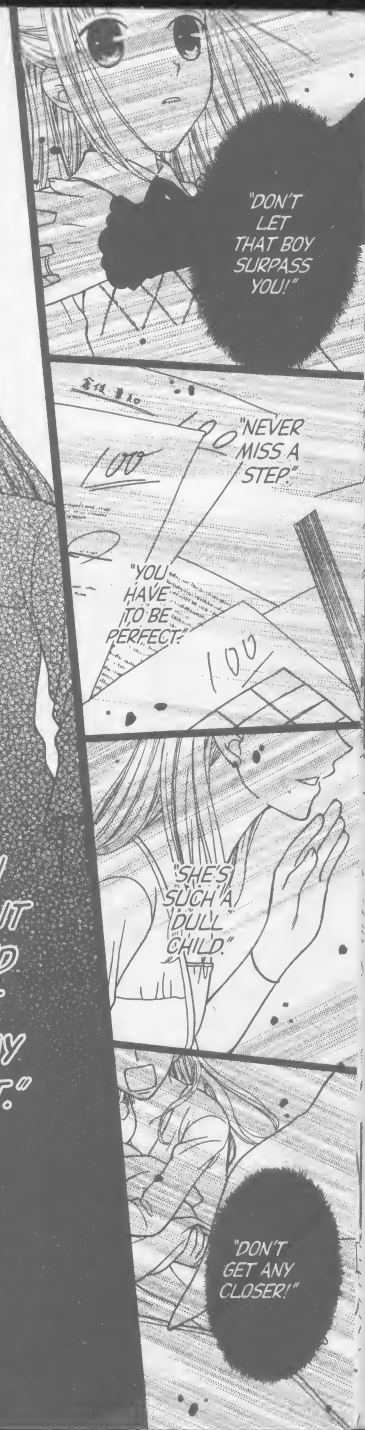


WHAT'S GOING
ON IN THAT
HEAD OF YOURS?
YOU NEVER
CHANGE,
DO YOU?

THIS IS WHY
EVERYONE FINDS
YOU DULL AND
UNAPPROACHABLE.



"YOU
MAKE IT
SOUND
LIKE
IT'S MY
FAULT."



"DON'T
LET
THAT BOY
SURPASS
YOU!"

"NEVER
MISS A
STEP."

"YOU
HAVE
TO BE
PERFECT!"

"SHE'S
SUCH A
DULL
CHILD."

"DON'T
GET ANY
CLOSER!"



Wooww!

"HE'S TOTALLY PRETTY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S A GUY!"

"THAT'S YUKI SOHMA."

"THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE--
SEE?"

"I CAN SEE WHY THEY
CALL HIM PRINCE
CHARMING."

"UNREAL!"



"PRINCE CHARMING'S
REAL POPULAR
WITH THE ALL GIRLS."

"DO YOU THINK
HE'D GO OUT WITH
ME?"

"YEAH,
RIGHT. HE'D
NEVER TALK
TO YOU!"

"DUH! HE'S
TALKING TO A BLUNCH
RIGHT NOW."

"A GUY LIKE
THAT'S
NEVER GONNA BE
LONELY."

AND YET...



THAT
PERSON
CHANGED

LITTLE
BY
LITTLE.

"LOOK
OVER
THERE."

"YOU SEE
THAT
PERSON?"

BUT THAT
PERSON...

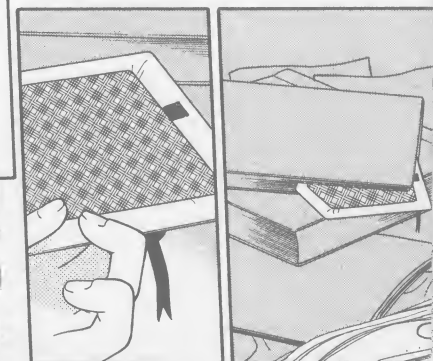


AND I WAS
LEFT "A
ME WITH
NOTHING."

A DULL
EXISTENCE.



NOTHING'S
CHANGED
SINCE THEN.





...I FELL ASLEEP.



THIS IS ANNOYING.



WHAT DO I WEAR?

I NEED MY BAG...
My uniform's fine.

rustle
rustle

COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'LL BE SEEING CLASSMATES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.



IT'S MORNING.

WHAT NOW?

I WONDER HOW BAD IT WOULD BE IF I DIDN'T GO.

I'LL TAKE A BATH, I GUESS.



HE DOES SEEM LONELY.

THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE, AT LEAST.

... "LONELINESS" ATE AWAY AT HIM.

EVERY TIME HE WAS TREATED LIKE A PRINCE...



HE'S CHANGING.

BUT HIS SMILES ARE NICER NOW.

"THIS IS WHY EVERYONE FINDS YOU DULL AND UNAPPROACHABLE."

I'M SURE OF IT.

"YOU NEVER CHANGE, DO YOU?"

LIKE HE PULLS THEM FROM HIS HEART.



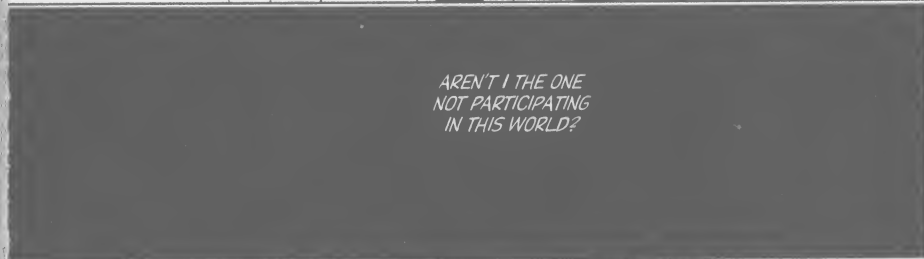
A DEFECT.

A BROKEN
DOLL THAT
CAN'T
BECOME
FULLY
HUMAN.

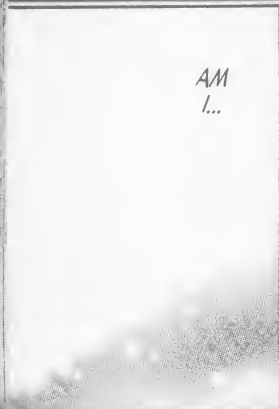
OR AM I
INVISIBLE?

ARE THEY
INVISIBLE?

PEOPLE
ALWAYS
PASS ME...
...AND
I PASS
THEM.



AREN'T I THE ONE
NOT PARTICIPATING
IN THIS WORLD?



AM
I...



AM I A
NECESSARY
BEING?



AM I...

...NEEDED?



I DON'T
REALLY
UNDERSTAND
"THE WORLD."

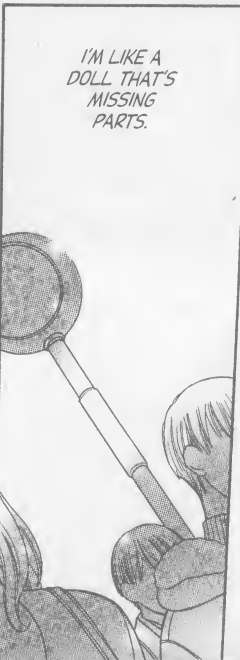
HE
ASKED
ME
THAT.

WHAT A
WEIRD
QUESTION.



...HOW COULD
I GRASP THE
CONCEPT OF
"THE WORLD"?

WHEN I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
"ME"...



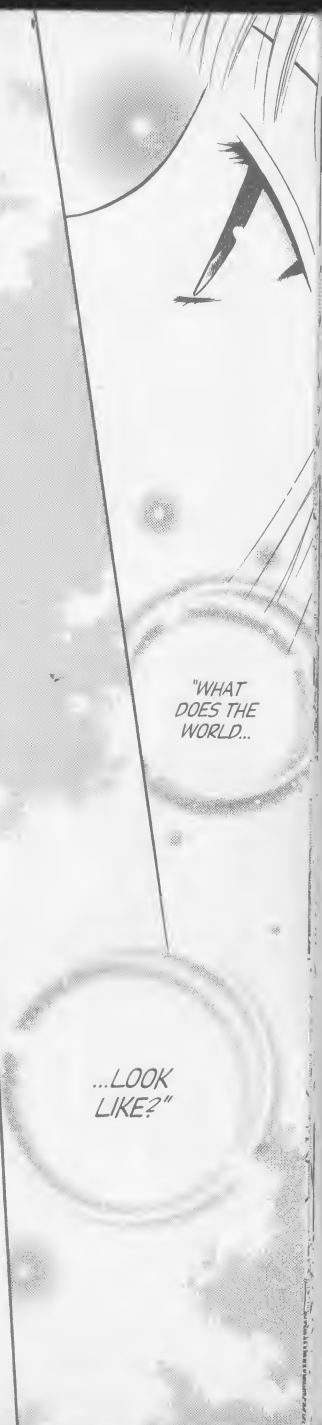
I'M LIKE A
DOLL THAT'S
MISSING
PARTS.

THERE'S
NOTHING.




"I" AM
ALWAYS
EMPTY.

THE
EXISTENCE OF
"ME" IS EMPTY.



"WHAT
DOES THE
WORLD..."

...LOOK
LIKE?"



BUT
HERE
YOU ARE,
MACHI.

I'M
GLAD!

I
THOUGHT
MAYBE
I WAS
EARLY.

YOU
KNOW?

MACHI!

...NEEDED
IN THIS
WORLD?





THERE'S NOTHING BEYOND THAT.

THANK YOU.



I MEAN...

THERE'S NO HIDDEN MEANING BEHIND IT.

I JUST WASN'T SURE ABOUT THROWING IT AWAY, SO I MADE A BOOKMARK.

I MADE IT MYSELF.



NO!

bah

GIVE IT BACK!



HEY.

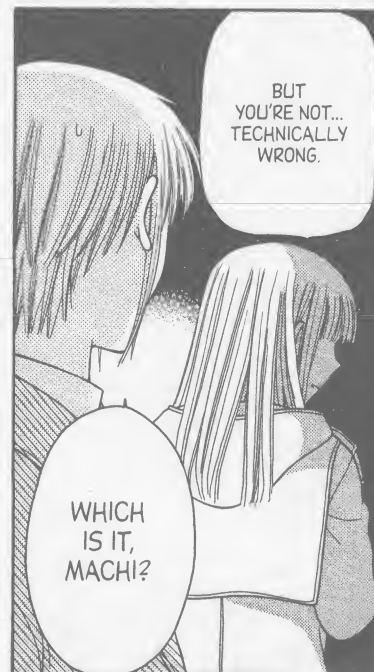
IS THIS THE MAPLE LEAF I GAVE YOU AS A SOUVENIR?



I'M GLAD.

WELL, YOU'RE TAKING GOOD CARE OF IT.

...FOR WHAT?



BUT YOU'RE NOT... TECHNICALLY WRONG.

WHICH IS IT, MACHI?



OKAY. SORRY.

Of course it was a different leaf.

.....



rustle rustle

I WAS SO ASLEEP, I EVEN PACKED THAT!

Oh.

MAYBE I HAVE THE WRONG LEAF.

YOU'RE WRONG!



ASK.

TAKE
THE
RISK.

HUNH.

Do
I
risk
it?

I KINDA
WANNA ASK,
BUT I ALSO
KINDA DON'T.



IS THAT
THE LEAF
YUN-YUN
GAVE YOU?

Huh?
WAIT
A
SEC.

THE SHORT
VERSION
TELLS ME
JACK.

THE
SHORT
VERSION
HERE...

...IS THAT
MACHI
IS BEING
INFLEXIBLE!



IT'S
NOT!

WHICH
IS IT,
MACHI?

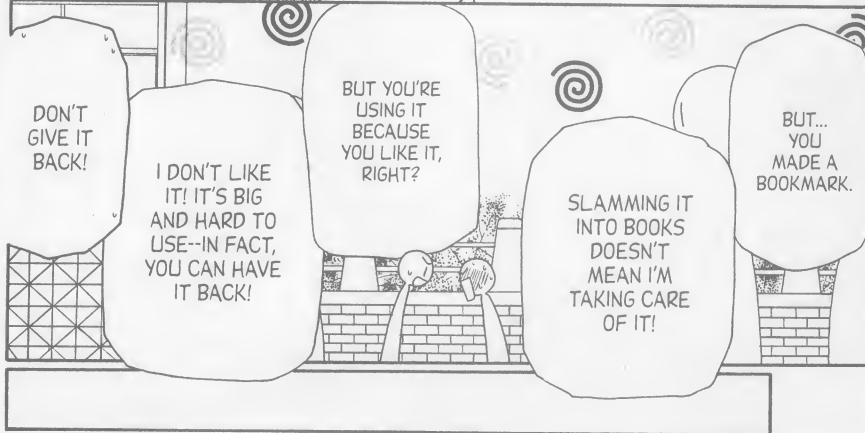
YOU'RE
WRONG--BUT
YOU'RE NOT,
ACTUALLY!

IT'S NONE
OF YOUR
BUSINESS,
MANABE!



I'm NOT
TAKING
CARE OF
IT!

HUH?



DON'T
GIVE IT
BACK!

I DON'T LIKE
IT! IT'S BIG
AND HARD TO
USE--IN FACT,
YOU CAN HAVE
IT BACK!

BUT YOU'RE
USING IT
BECAUSE
YOU LIKE IT,
RIGHT?

SLAMMING IT
INTO BOOKS
DOESN'T
MEAN I'M
TAKING CARE
OF IT!

BUT...
YOU
MADE A
BOOKMARK.



I'VE NEVER SEEN MACHI LIKE THAT.

I'VE GOTTA SAY, I WAS SURPRISED.

HM?

...A WEIRD PERSON.



IT'S A NATURAL PRINCESS OLD MAN!

I'm a what now?

YOU DON'T MAKE SENSE ANY MORE.

A WEIRD PERSON!



OH...! GUESS.

SHE GOT ALL RED AND MAD JUST NOW.
You saw it.

I THOUGHT IT WAS SORT OF CUTE.

Despite her inflexibility.



THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION.

THEN I FINALLY GOT IT.

I DON'T KNOW!

ALL RIGHT. THEN MAYBE...

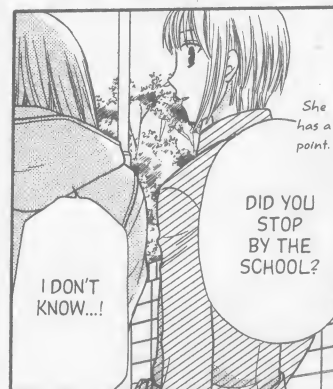
...YOU LIKE THE COLOR RED?

Or something?

OH, YEAH. RED!

See?

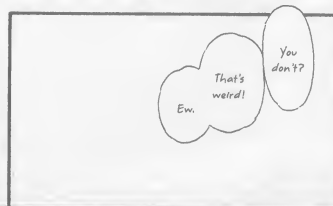
Her ribbon's red, too.



I DON'T KNOW...!

She has a point.

DID YOU STOP BY THE SCHOOL?



Ew.

That's weird!

You don't?



OH, NO, MACHI! WHY ARE YOU WEARING YOUR UNIFORM?!

Dragged along.

YO, OVER HERE!

...HE REMEMBERED.



Chapter 95

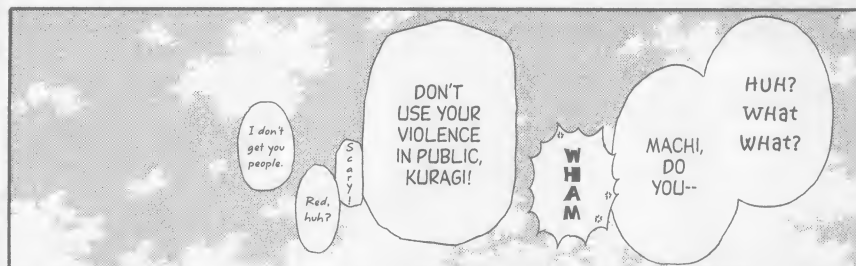


MACHI
LIKES
RED.

?

A
WEIRD...
PERSON.

WELL,
IT'S ALL
COMING
TOGETHER.



I don't
get you
people.

Red,
huh?

DON'T
USE YOUR
VIOLENCE
IN PUBLIC,
KURAGI!

W
H
A
M

MACHI,
DO
YOU--

HUH?
What
What?



YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU
CAME TO
SHISHOU
TO GET
MARRIED.

Oh!
N-NOT
AT ALL!
I'M NOT
WORTHY
OF SUCH
AN HONOR!

I SUSPECT THAT
I ALSO HAVE
IMPERFECTIONS...

...BUT
PLEASE
REGARD ME
KINDLY.



THAT IS
NOT YOUR
CALL.

BESIDES,
SHISHOU-SAN
HAS THE
WONDERFUL
HANA-CHA--

Close the
mouth.

I'll
take
you to
your
room.

I'LL BE
STAYING AT
SHISHOU-
SAN'S HOUSE
THIS YEAR.

NEW
YEAR'S IS
COMING
SOON.



y e e k !
N-NO!
IT'S NOT
LIKE
THAT!

IT'S JUST
THAT I'LL BE
STAYING WITH
HIM ON NEW
YEAR'S, SO I
WANTED TO
EXPRESS MY
THANKS!

I KNOW.
IT WAS A
JOKE.



UM...

ALL
RIGHT,
THEN.

I'M VERY
INEXPERI-
ENCED...

...BUT
PLEASE
REGARD
ME
KINDLY.

LET ME
THANK
YOU
AGAIN.



NO,
NO.



you...

you
BEAST!

I'M
GONNA
KILL
YOU.



Hmm.

IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
BOTHR GOING
BACK, YOU
SHOULD TAKE
YOUR TIME--
STAY LONGER
THAN A NIGHT.

WELL...I'M
NOT SURE
ABOUT LEAVING
THE TWO OF
THEM ALONE.



?

Left alone.



I'M GONNA KILL
YOU BOTH.
TOGETHER.

BEAST.

HA?
NOT TO WORRY,
TOHRU-KUN! WE'LL
PUT TOGETHER A
PLAN TO PROTECT
YOU FROM THE
EVIL CLUTCHES OF
FIENDISH KYO-KUN.



SHISHOU-
SAN!

AND IT WAS
DECIDED THAT I
WOULD IMPOSE
ON THE KIND
SHISHOU-SAN.

Please,
send them
here.

I
see.

BEFORE
I REALLY
UNDERSTOOD,
THE TALKS
PROGRESSSED.

AND
SO...



EH?!

OH,
MY.

JUST FOR
ONE NIGHT.
I'LL COME
BACK THE
EVENING
OF NEW
YEAR'S DAY.

I THINK I'LL
GO BACK TO
THE MAIN
HOUSE FOR
NEW YEAR'S.

IT
STARTED
WITH
SOMETHING
YUKI-KUN
SAID.



ALL
RIGHT!



I
did
not.

Did
you
hit
your
head?

SOME-
THING UP,
YUKI-KUN?
THAT DOESN'T
SOUND LIKE
YOU.



...I'LL
BE
GOING.



WE'RE
COMING
IN...

カ open

...ISUZU.

ISUZU-SAN!



AND
KYO...

YOU'VE
ALREADY
WELCOMED
MANY A
NEW YEAR
WITH ME.



I'll do
my best
to
make
it!

YOU
MUST BE
ESPECIALLY
HAPPY
TO HAVE
TOHRU-SAN
WITH US.

I LOOK
FORWARD
TO IT.



"CHILD"?

Oh...
THAT'S
RIGHT.

I SHOULD
TELL YOU
THAT THE
OTHER
CHILD IS
ALSO HERE.



NO.

He went back
to his family
again this year.

YOU MEAN
KUNIMITSU?



If I said
I wasn't
happy, I'd
be lying.
It's also
extremely
complicated,
and it'd
be like I'm
driving
myself into a
corner, but...

I WAS TEASING,
BUT I THINK
HE TOOK IT
PERSONALLY.

Something must
have happened.



WHAT
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO EAT
TONIGHT?

I'LL DO MY
BEST TO MAKE
YOU WHATEVER
YOU LIKE!



GOSH.

WHEN I WENT
TO SEE ISUZU-
SAN AT THE
HOSPITAL THE
OTHER DAY,
SHE DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING.



OH!
I...

THEY'RE
NOT ON
BAD
TERMS.

THEY'RE
JUST NOT
ON GOOD
TERMS.

...SEE?

Huh?
Huh?



YES--
IT SEEMS
SHE'S OUT
TEMPORARILY.



PUSHING
HERSELF NOW
AND RUINING
HER HEALTH
WOULD MAKE
HER HOSPITAL
TIME A WASTE.

BUT SHE
DIDN'T WANT TO
PARTICIPATE
IN THE
BANQUET.

SHE
SEEMED TO BE
TRYING TO GO
SOMEWHERE,
SO I SPOKE
TO HER.



PROBABLY
A WHILE
AGO.

IT'S
PROBABLY
STARTED
WITHOUT
HER BY NOW.

THAT...THING.



YOU'RE
RIGHT.

...



I'M
VERY
SORRY.

Y-YOU JUST
SPRANG OUT
OF NOWHERE
AND CAME
RUNNING!

You
idiot!



IS THAT
RIGHT? YOU
USED TO HAVE
NO PROBLEM
GLARING AT
EACH OTHER
FOR FIVE, TEN
MINUTES.

And
Hatsuharu
would
gaze on.

WE
WERE
JUST
KIDS!

Huh?

ARE YOU
TWO ON BAD
TERMS?



TOHRU,
THINK
BEFORE
YOU
LEAP.

I DIDN'T
HEAR
ANYTHING
ABOUT YOU
COMING!
NOW I'M
GONNA BE
SICK!



I
WOULDN'T
DO THAT.
JEEZ.

YOU'RE
NOT TO
GLARE
AT EACH
OTHER
TODAY.



PLEASE
STOP ADDING
TO MY
MISERY.

Yes!

I WOULD
WISH IT TO
EMBRACE
ME!



TOGETHER WE
WILL BE...
THE EMBRACED
TEAM!

AND YOU
WILL BE
WITH THE
MIRACULOUS
ME!

STOP
TALKING
NONSENSE
AND GO
AWAY!

Yuki's here.
you realize.

YOU
CHANGED
YOUR
CLOTHES
TOO FAST,
HAA-SAN.

Aw,

?



BE
QUIET!

THE
DEPRESSING
"DANCE" IS
OVER AT
LAST,
HM?

TOO BAD
YOU'RE IN
IT NEXT
YEAR!

GOOD
WORK,
HAA-SAN!



TORI-
SAN!

HATORI-
NIISAN,
THAT WAS
WONDERFUL!



IT WAS A SPECTACULAR
DANCE! I CAN'T HELP
BUT SAY THAT MOMIJI'S
YOUTHFUL INNOCENCE
COUPLED WITH TORI-
SAN'S AURA OF REFINED
MASCULINITY CAUSED
A MIRACULOUS FLAVOR
TO HANG IN THE AIR. IF IT
WERE GIVEN TANGIBILITY...



NOW?

I WONDER WHAT
YUKI-KUN AND
THE OTHERS
ARE THINKING
ABOUT THERE...

草摩
Soma

A Character Contest

...was done by the magazine, so here are the results!

- 1st place: Kyo
- 2nd place: Tohru
- 3rd place: Yuki
- 4th place: Hatori
- 5th place: Haru
- 6th place: Momitchi
- 7th place: Kakeru
- 8th place: Aaya
- 9th place: Kurenno-san
- 10th place: Gure-san
- 11th place: Rin
- 12th place: Hana-chan
- 13th place: Ritchan
- 14th place: Kisa
- 15th place: Machi
- 16th place: Hiro
- 17th place: Shishou
- 18th place: Akkii
- 19th place: Uo-chan
- 20th place: Kagura

...There you go.
I couldn't write them all down, so I had through 20. There are too many characters in Fruits Basket. Anyway, thanks for all the responses!





YOU
CAME
BACK
TO ME.

I'M
GLAD.

HNN.

YOU
DIDN'T
RUN
AWAY
THIS
TIME.



I...

...FORGIVE
YOU, TOO,
AKITO.



COME
SEE ME
MORE
OFTEN
FROM
NOW ON.

...SO I
FORGIVE
YOU.





...I WON'T BE ABLE TO CHANGE.

THAT'S WHY.
IF I BLAME SOMEONE ELSE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES...



WHAT?

...HAVE THOSE...
...EYES?



WHY DO YOU...



NOT ANYMORE.

I DON'T...
I DON'T LIKE MAKING IT ANYONE'S FAULT.

I JUST...

OR MOTHER'S FAULT, OR KYO'S FAULT, WHEN THINGS DON'T GO THE WAY I WANT.

I'M TIRED OF MAKING IT AKITO'S FAULT.



IF I DON'T, I'LL ALWAYS BE THE FOOL.

I HAVE A LOT OF BAD QUALITIES, AND MUCH OF ME NEEDS CHANGING.
I HAVE TO KEEP AWARE OF THAT.



ACTUALLY, NO.

IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF FORGIVENESS.



AKITO--

A P O L O G I Z E !



DO
IT!

SAY
YOU'RE
SORRY!



"NO."

"DON'T
GO!"

crash

I'LL NEVER
RETURN...

...TO
WHERE
YOU ARE.

REALLY.

YOUR BROTHER
GOES MANIC
OVER HIS OWN
EXAGGERATION.

YEAH.

YOU
MUSTN'T
DIE, YUKI!

THE SETTING SUN
WE WATCHED THE
DAY WE PLEDGED
BY THE SEINE TO
DIE TOGETHER
SPARKLES LIKE
GOLD IN MY HEART,
EVEN NOW!

WE NEVER
SAW THAT!
WE NEVER
PLEDGED!

Stop
making
up past
events
and
put me
down!

Be
strong,
Yuki!

I'M
SORRY.

Gaaah!

AKITO...

...I'M
SORRY.

JUST
BRING
HIM OVER
HERE.

AS ORDERED,
TORI-SAN!

YOU'RE CLEARLY
IN PAIN! BUT
WORRY NOT,
BROTHER--WITH
ME AT YOUR SIDE,
WE WILL HAVE
ONE MILLION
HORSEPOWER!

I'M FINE.
IT'S JUST A
LITTLE CUT.

WHAT'S THE
MEANING OF
THIS?! YOU'RE
BLEEDING
LIKE MAD!

YUKI!



ALL
THIS
TIME.

"I
THINK
I SEE
NOW."

...I MAY
HAVE
BEEN
BLAMING
YOU.

SOME-
WHERE IN
MY HEART...

"...YOU FEEL
INDEBTED
TO YUKI."

"D-DON'T
ERASE
THEM!"

I WAS
JUST A
CHILD.

AND
YOU WERE
HURTING,
TOO,
HATORI.

I'M
SORRY.



THE
WOUND
ITSELF
ISN'T
DEEP.

BUT I'D
STILL
RECOMMEND
YOU GO
TO THE
HOSPITAL.

I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
HOW HARD
YOU WERE
HIT.

MM...
THANK
YOU.

DON'T
THANK
ME.

I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T
INTERCEDE.

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.
IT PROBABLY
WOULD'VE JUST
MADE AKITO
ANGRIER.

I ALSO
WANTED TO
APOLOGIZE...

...TO YOU,
HATORI.

FOR WHAT
HAPPENED
WHEN I WAS
LITTLE.

WHAT DID
YOU SAY
TO AKITO?

HM?
NOTHING,
REALLY...
I JUST
TALKED
ABOUT
BLAME.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



HAA-KUN.

GOING OUT, ARE WE?



YEAH...
YUKI'S OKAY,
AND DEMON
AKITO'S AWAY.

YOU SAY
THAT SO
CASUALLY.

ARE YOU
OFF TO SEE
RIN-CHAN AT
KAZUMA-
DONO'S
HOUSE?

YEAH.



...DON'T
BE LIKE
YOUR
BROTHER.



I
WON'T.
And
can't.

HAVE I BEEN
SUMMONED? IS
THE TREATMENT
COMPLETE?!



H-HEY!
OW OW!

NEVER
MIND ME.

THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR YOU TO
APOLOGIZE.

YOU...

...ARE
VERY
KIND.

ACK!



THANK
YOU.

WHEN WE
WERE KIDS,
SHE CAME
OVER HERE
SOMETIMES.

SHISHOU'S
ALWAYS READY
TO HELP
PEOPLE, SO HE
LOOKED AFTER
HER WHEN
SHE SHOWED.

Y'KNOW
ISUZU?

AH!

SHE
FELL
ASLEEP.

*Incidentally,
Shishou is in
the bath.*

THE NEW
YEAR'S
DAWN IS
ALMOST
HERE,
KYO-KUN!

WHAT WILL
YOU WISH FOR
ON YOUR FIRST
TEMPLE VISIT
OF THE YEAR?

DOESN'T
SHE CARE
ABOUT NEW
YEAR'S?

THAT'S
KINDA
CUTE!

AW.
KYO-
KUN!

I WAS
PISSED
'CUZ I
KINDA FELT
LIKE SHE'D
TAKEN
SHISHOU
AWAY
FROM ME.

...WHERE'D
ISUZU GO,
ANYWAY?

OKAY!

I'M TALKING
ABOUT
WHEN I WAS
A KID, ALL
RIGHT?!

*It's different
now!*

*Hang
on!*

YOUR
MOODS
ARE
FICKLE,
SENSEI.

YESSIR! ♥
CLEARLY
ERRATIC--
THAT'S ME!
♥

A
LOT.

I DON'T
ALWAYS
HAVE TO
GO SMOOTH
THINGS OVER,
DO I?

He's
been
closed
up
since
earlier.
WHAT
ABOUT
SENSEI?
NOT
GOING TO
AKITO?

Anyway.

SAY HI
TO RIN
FOR ME.

OKAY.

I DON'T
FEEL
LIKE IT.

IT WOULD
BE NICE IF
YOU COULD
REALIZE IT,
TOO.

AKITO ...



KURENO.

FROM TOHRU.

THAT'S A
PRESENT
FOR YOU.

EVEN IF
IT JUST
STARTS...

...WITH
ONE
SMALL
THING.



Let's
just say
they're
both
secrets,
then.

Yeah!

THAT'S
TRUE!
PARDON MY
RUDENESS!

IF YOU'RE
GONNA ASK,
YOU HAVE
TO TELL
ME YOURS.

LAST
YEAR...

...I WISHED THAT
YUKI-KUN AND
KYO-KUN WOULD
BE ABLE TO
GET ALONG.

I WISH FOR
HAPPINESS.

FOR
EVERYONE.

BUT
THIS
YEAR...

...I HOPE I
CAN BREAK
THE CURSE.

*I feel so
grateful!*

@!!

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
Mother-sama, Editor-sama

And everyone who reads and
supports this manga.

Please feel the waves...

This has been...

高屋 奈月 でした。
Natsuki Takaya.



Right?

...FOR
CHANGE.

Watch it by
yourself, kay? ♪

I
WISH...



To Be Continued in Volume 17!

Next time in...



All You Wanted to Know About Akito, But Were Afraid to Ask...

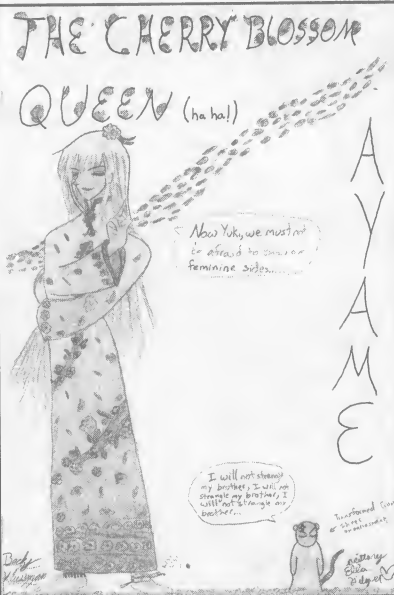
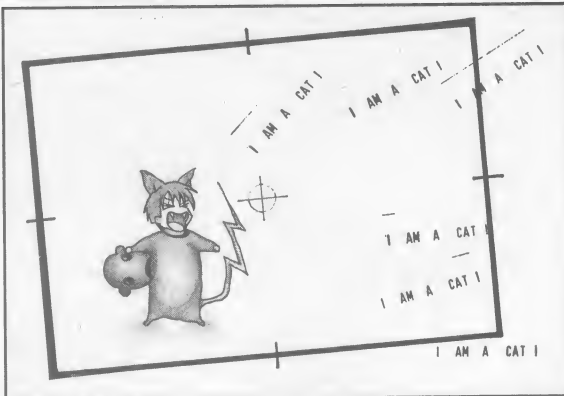
Thanks to Momiji, Kureno has a DVD of the class play, in which Arisa breaks character for a second and begs Kureno to see her. And although Kureno loves Arisa, he explains to Tohru that he must remain by Akito's side. During this conversation, Kureno reveals many secrets to a stunned Tohru. And the biggest bombshell of all will forever change the way Tohru views Akito!

Fruits Basket Volume 17
Available August 2007



Seng Ho
Age 22
London, UK

Putting Kyo in a rat
suit was a stroke of
brilliance! Very funny
sketch, Seng Ho!



Rebecca Marie Klusman Age 14
Manchester, MO
Brittany Ella Hilgert Age 15
High Ridge, MO

There's nothing like Fruits Basket to
bring friends even closer together!
Brittany designed the costume for
this drawing, and Becky drew Ayame.
Awesome teamwork! Your picture
of Ayame made me laugh out loud!

Margaret Lamas
Age 17
Orlando, FL

Margaret, your drawing is too precious
for words! Kisa with her little litter of
"kittens" gives me the warm fuzzies!



Fans Basket

Happy New Year, Furuba fans! 2007 is going to be an incredible
year for Fruits Basket-you're in for some wonderful surprises
in the upcoming volumes! Speaking of surprises, you all
continue to amaze me with your intense loyalty and your smile-
inducing fan art. It just keeps coming in, and it never stops!
And thanks to you all, there are now over 2 million English-
edition copies of Fruits Basket in print! Takaya-san is impressed
by your dedication, as am I. See you next time.

- Paul Morrissey, Editor

Alyssa Burlage
Age 13
Prairie Du Sac, WI



Wow! Another fan from Wisconsin! Alyssa,
Kisa is one of my favorite characters, too!
Like you, I grew up in a small town in
Wisconsin, and I had a lot of cats when I
was a kid. Maybe that's why I like Kisa so
much. I thought your sketch was adorable,
and you drew it with your own style!



Hello, Michelle! Wisconsin
is my home state! I love the
fact that Wisconsinites are
reading Fruits Basket. If only
one of the zodiac animals was a
badger... Anywho, I loved your
drawing of Hana-Chan. You
have a very unique technique.

Michelle S. Huttonen
Age 13
Rhineland, WI



Jen Chen
Age 12
Belmont, MA

Kyo and Yuki don't look very happy here--even though they're getting lots of candy! I love Tohru's costume, but she's way too sweet to ever be a witch in real life! This sketch gives me a great idea! If any of you have dressed up as Fruits Basket characters for Halloween, send in a copy of your picture and I might run it in a future installment of Fruits Basket!



Guadalupe Gonzales
Age 13
Dallas, TX

Isn't this amazing? Rin and Haru look soooooo cool as old-fashioned stuffed animals! Guadalupe, it's a shame I can't print all the art you submitted. I was blown away by your sketches!



"You know how I get on days like this..."

Melody Brown
Age 17
Medina, OH

I really liked your ink drawing, Melody! Nicely done! By the way, everyone, Melody mentions that she really likes pandas. And that got me thinking: I wonder what our furuba characters would look like if the Chinese zodiac featured different animals... Okay, everyone, send in your art to show me!



Jenn Prickett
Age 32
Glendo, WY

It's really cool to see all three versions of Kyo in one piece of art! Jenn, you might also be the oldest person to have their sketch shown in Fruits Basket! It just goes to show that Furuba has fans of all ages!

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Suki
Age 16
Surrey, British
Columbia, Canada



Larissa Melnik
Age 16
Waterloo, Ontario,
Canada

Hey, Larissa. I agree:
Haru and Kisa do
look cute together. I
particularly like the
way you drew their
animal forms! I hope
you're still drawing!

Suki
Age 16
Surrey, British
Columbia, Canada

Whoa! Suki, your art is very
impressive! It's so amazing
to see our *Fruits Basket*
characters rendered in this
way! I wish I could have printed
all your fantastic drawings,
but two will have to do!

